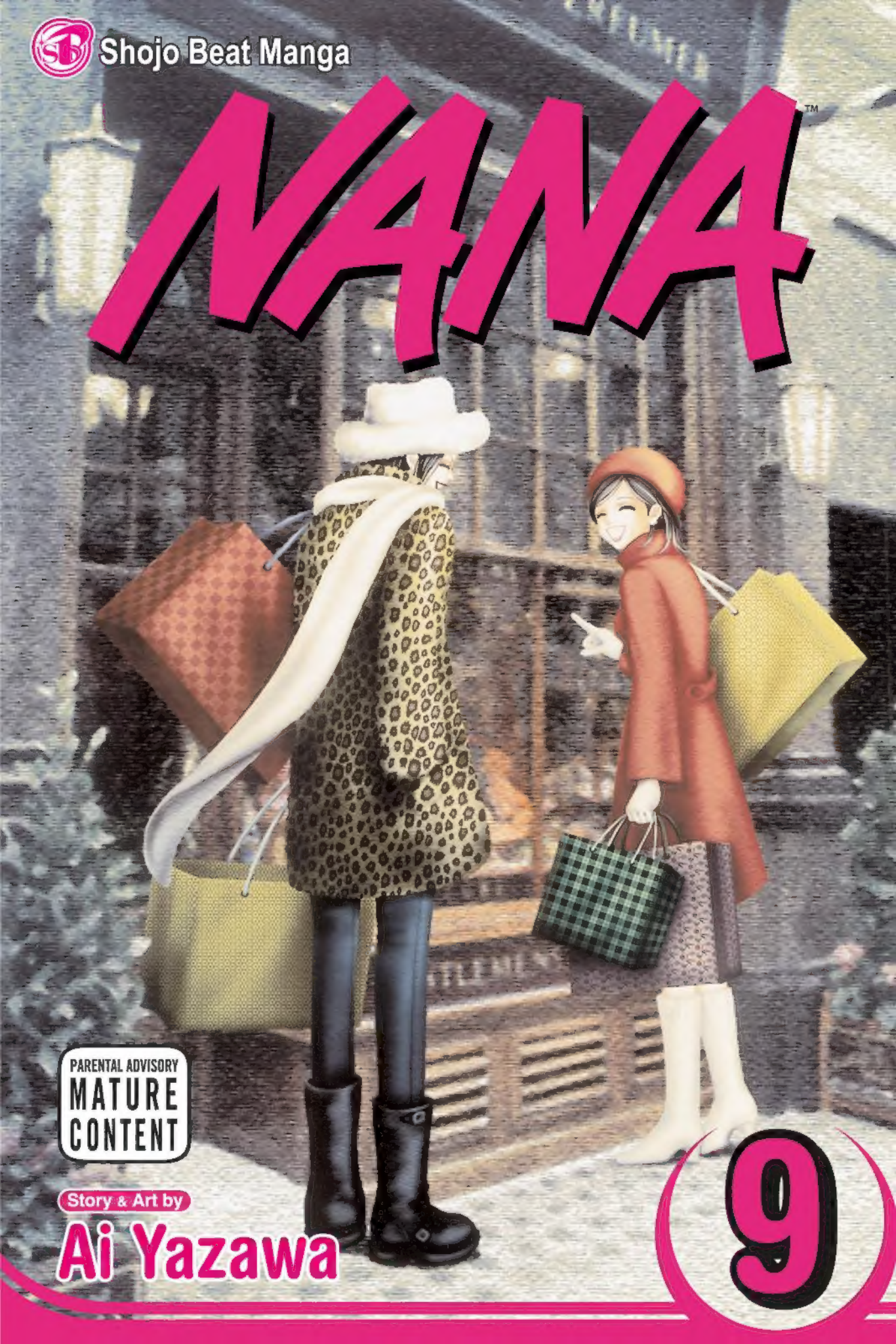

Shojo Beat Manga
NANA™
PARENTAL ADVISORY
MATURE
CONTENT
Story & Art by
Ai Yazawa
9

Shojo Beat

NANA Vol. 9

Story & Art by Ai Yazawa

NANA

Contents

Chapter 29 3
Chapter 30 61
Chapter 31 113
Chapter 32 161
Bonus Page 215
Bonus Story: Naoki 225

The Story of Nana

Nana "Hachi" Komatsu and Nana Osaki meet by chance on a train headed for Tokyo. Their personalities and the environments they grew up in are very different, but by fate or by chance, they meet again and become roommates...

Nana Osaki gets back together with her ex-boyfriend Ren, who she hasn't seen for more than a year. Ren's band Trapnest is wildly popular, and Nana is determined that Blast will keep up. A major label offers the band a temporary contract, and now Blast is busy practicing daily for their debut.

Hachi leaves Takumi for Nobu, and it's happily ever after until Hachi discovers she's pregnant. Takumi claims the baby, regardless of who the father really is. Hachi can't stand up to Takumi's manipulation or explain the real situation to Nobu, but she does decide to keep the baby. When Hachi tells Takumi her plans, he surprisingly proposes. Meanwhile, Nana, who's in even more shock than Nobu, runs to Yasu for advice and to vent. She calms down, but...

♥For the complete story, please check out *Nana*, volumes 1 - 8.
Available in bookstores everywhere!!

BUT THEN REN ABANDONED ME.

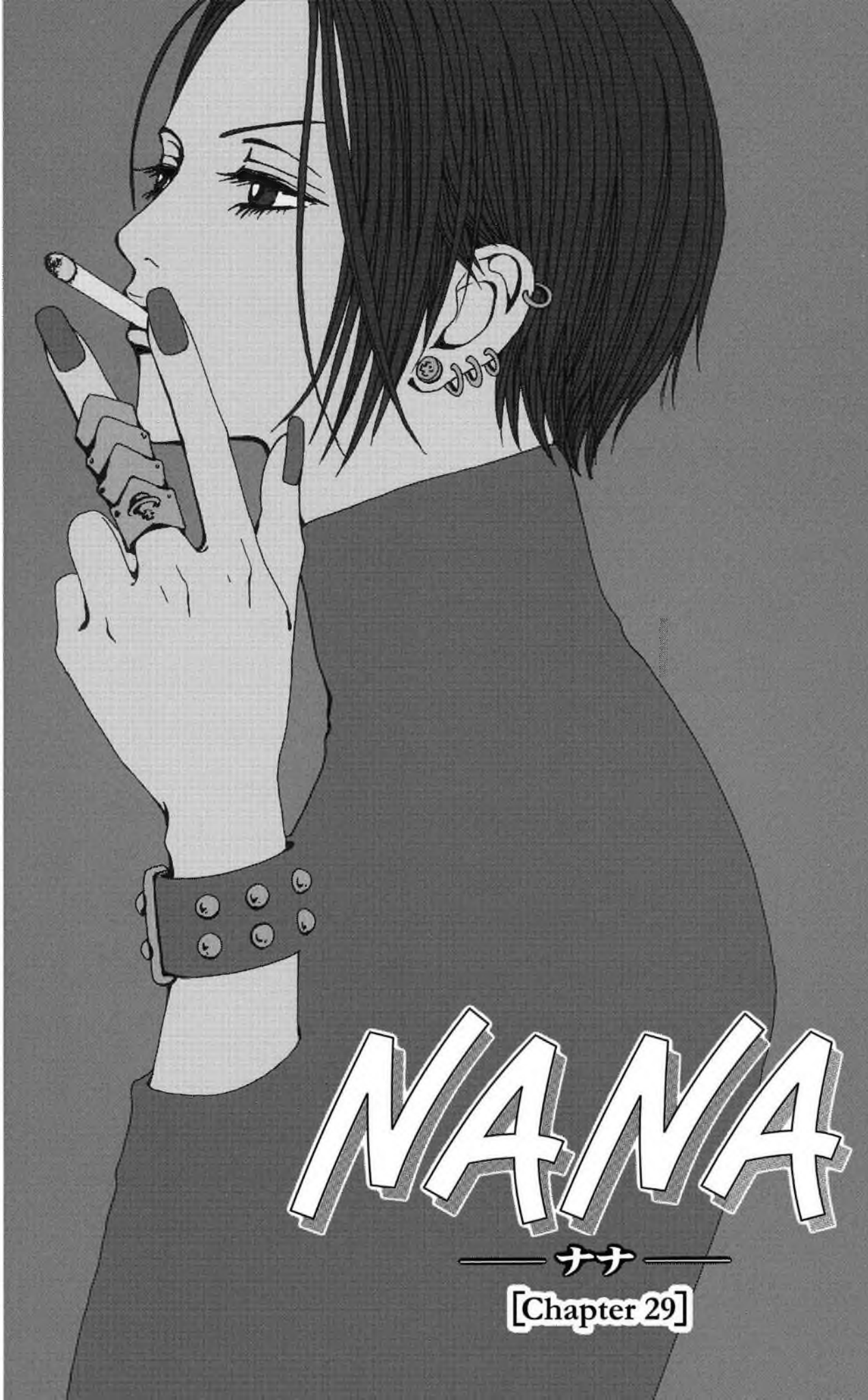
WE GOT THE SAME PIERCINGS, WE WORE MATCHING COMBAT BOOTS, WE SLEPT IN THE SAME BED, AND WE SHARED A DREAM.

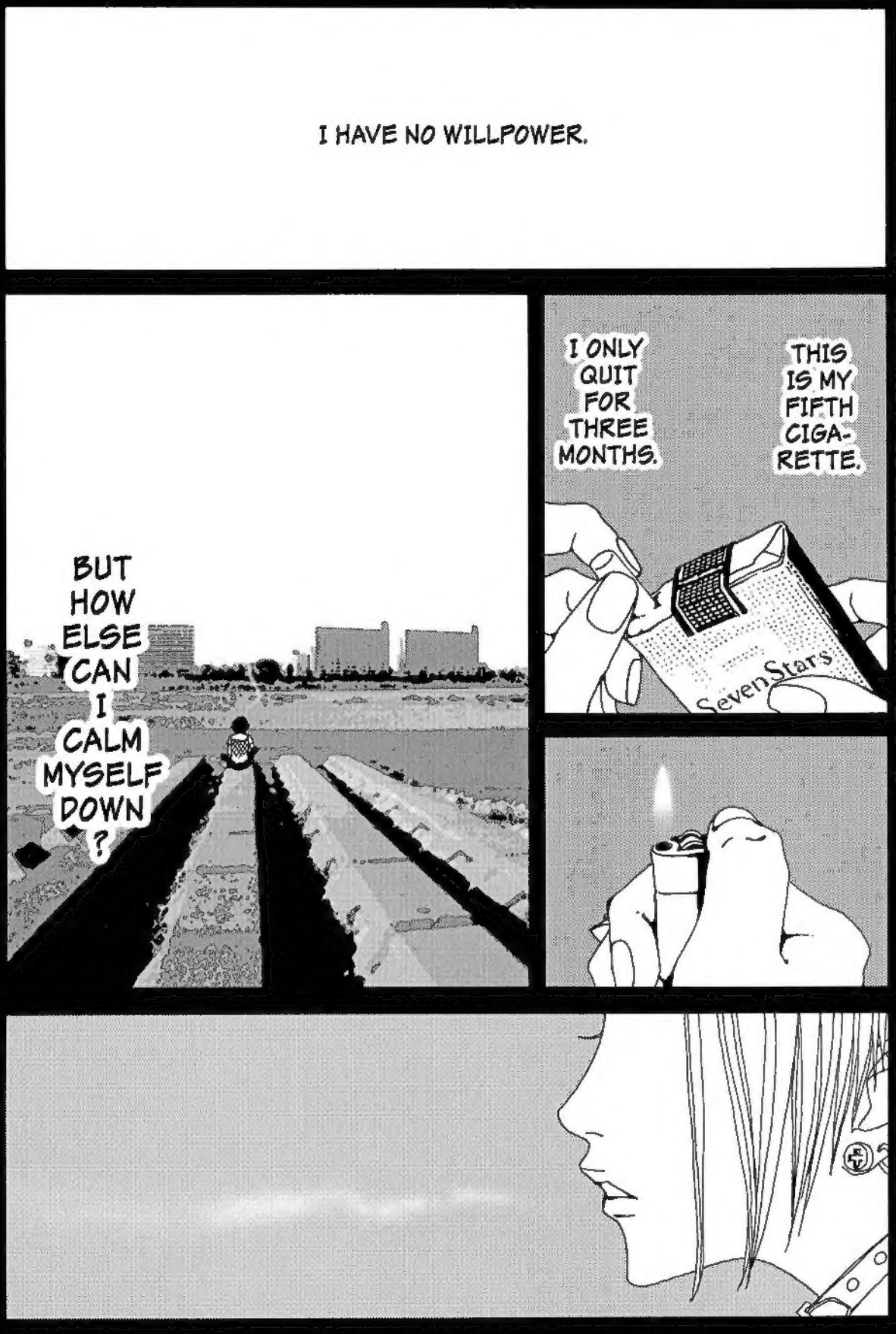
THE SUMMER I TURNED SIXTEEN, I SWITCHED TO SEVEN STARS CIGARETTES BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT REN SMOKED.

JUST LIKE I COULDN'T FORGIVE MY MOTHER.

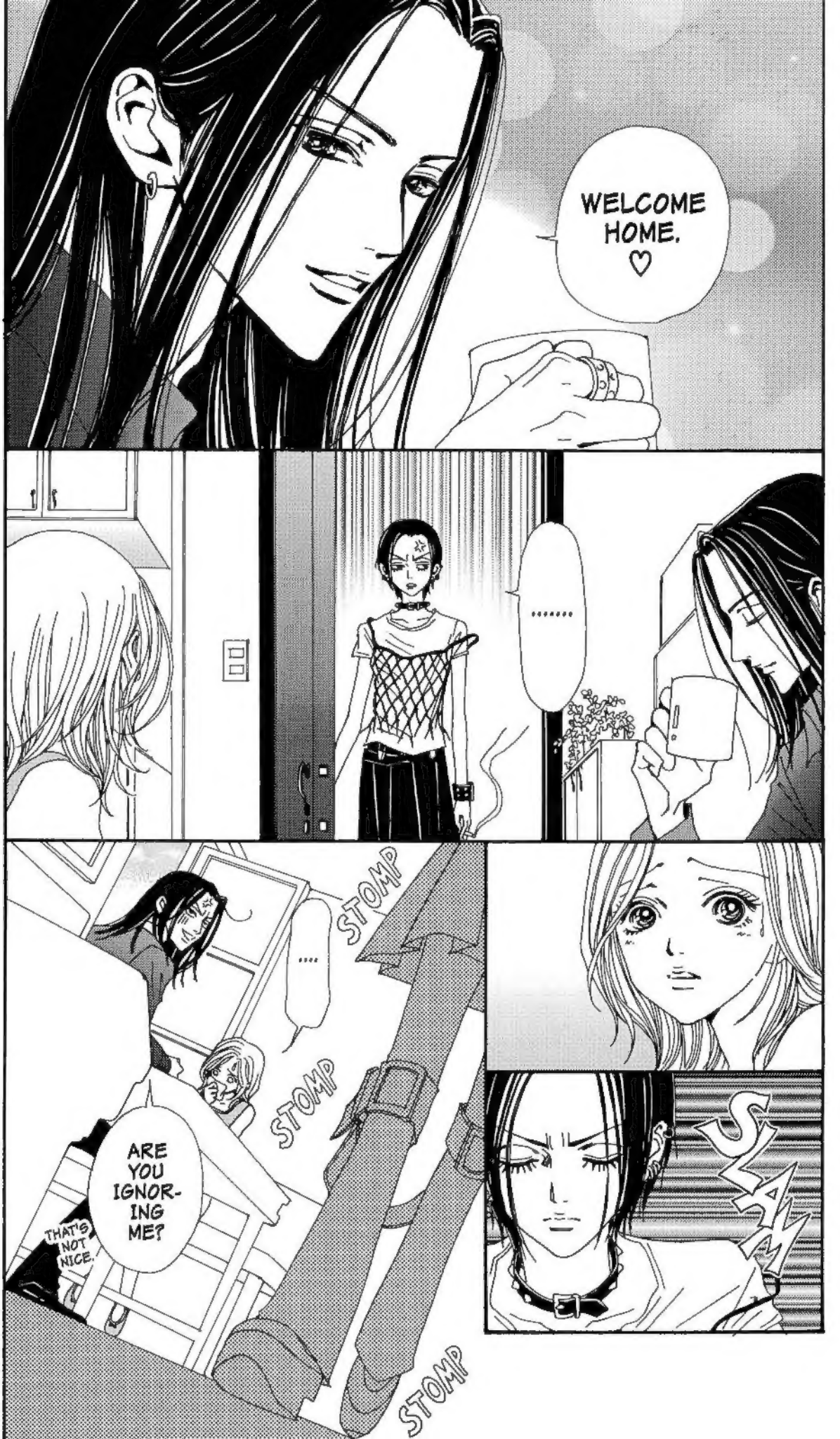
...I NEVER FORGAVE HIM FOR THAT.

SOME-WHERE IN MY HEART...


NANA
ナナ
[Chapter 29]


I HAVE NO WILLPOWER.
BUT HOW ELSE CAN I CALM MYSELF DOWN?
I ONLY QUIT FOR THREE MONTHS.
THIS IS MY FIFTH CIGA-RETTE.
Seven Stars

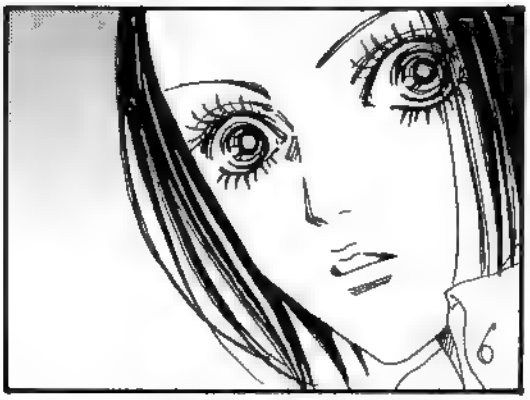
I WONDER WHAT NOBU ENDED UP DOING?
I WAS PROBABLY TOO HARSH WITH HIM.
WHEN I SEE HIM AT WORK, I'LL TELL HIM I'M SORRY.
BUT I HAVE TO MAKE A LIVING.
WORK SUCKS.
I'M TIRED.
BUT I WONDER IF HE'LL SHOW UP.
SATURDAY
01 09/01
06:42
SO NOW WHEN ARE WE GOING TO DEBUT?
AT LEAST WE DON'T HAVE TO RENT PRACTICE SPACE ANY-MORE.
TAKUMI...
...HAS TO RECORD. HE MUST'VE SPLIT, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF HACHI'S ASLEEP.

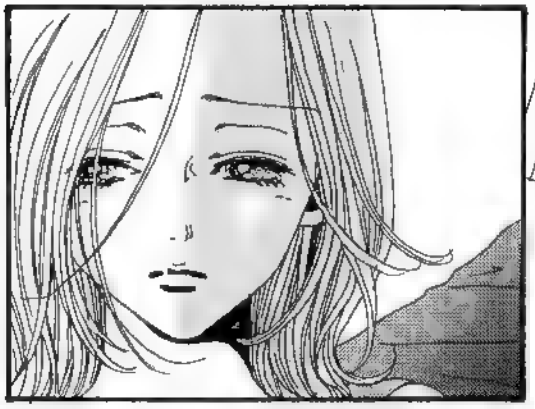

WELCOME HOME. ♡
.....
....
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
ARE YOU IGNOR-ING ME?
THAT'S NOT NICE.
SLAM

AND PUT OUT THAT CIGA-RETTE.
IT'S BAD FOR THE BABY.
IT WON'T TAKE LONG.
CALM DOWN...
SSS
Slam
WELL I HAVE TO CHANGE AND GO TO WORK.
WE HAVE TO TALK.
COME SIT DOWN.
THEN COME OUT AFTER YOU CHANGE.
REMEM-BER, NO MATTER WHAT HACHI DECIDES, JUST WATCH OVER HER GENTLY.
I NEED A BATH ...
BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME.
DAMN.
clink

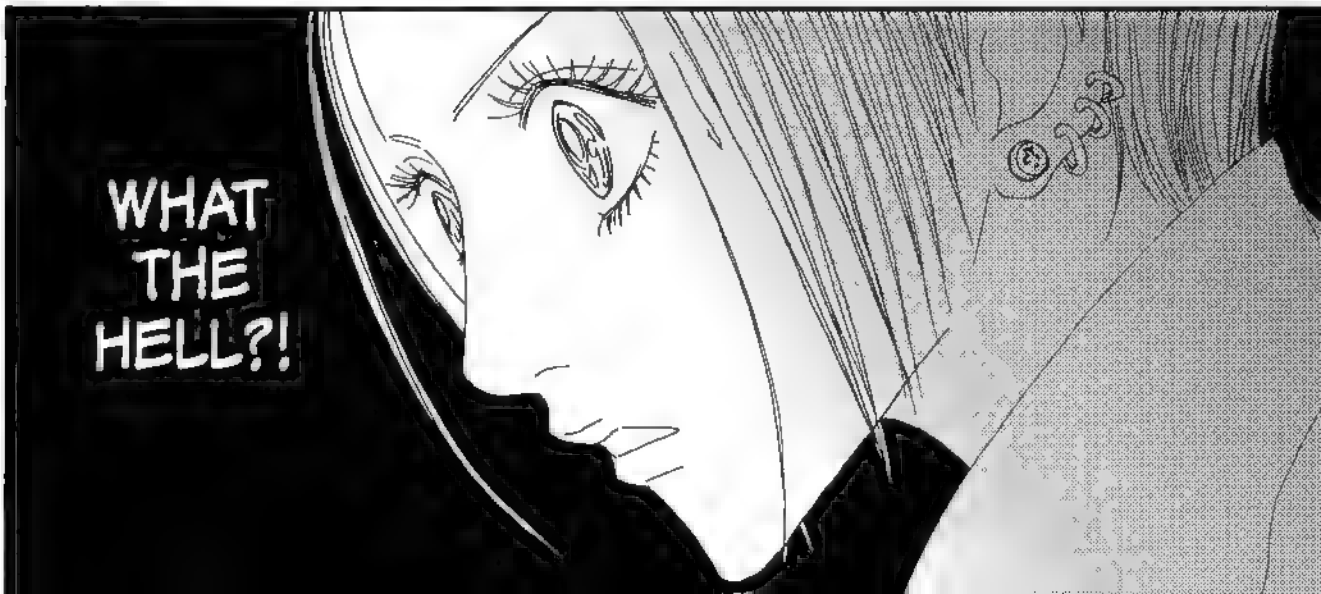
WE'RE GETTING MARRIED.
GETTING MARRIED?!
WHAT?!
...I'M CONSULTING OUR AGENCY ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED WITH THINGS.
WHICH MEANS ...

WE NEED A PLACE THAT'S PERFECTLY SECURE, FOR BOTH MOTHER AND CHILD.
THERE'RE NO ELEVA-TORS HERE, AND THAT'S BAD IF YOU'RE PREGNANT.
AND I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE WHERE WE CAN LIVE TOGETHER.

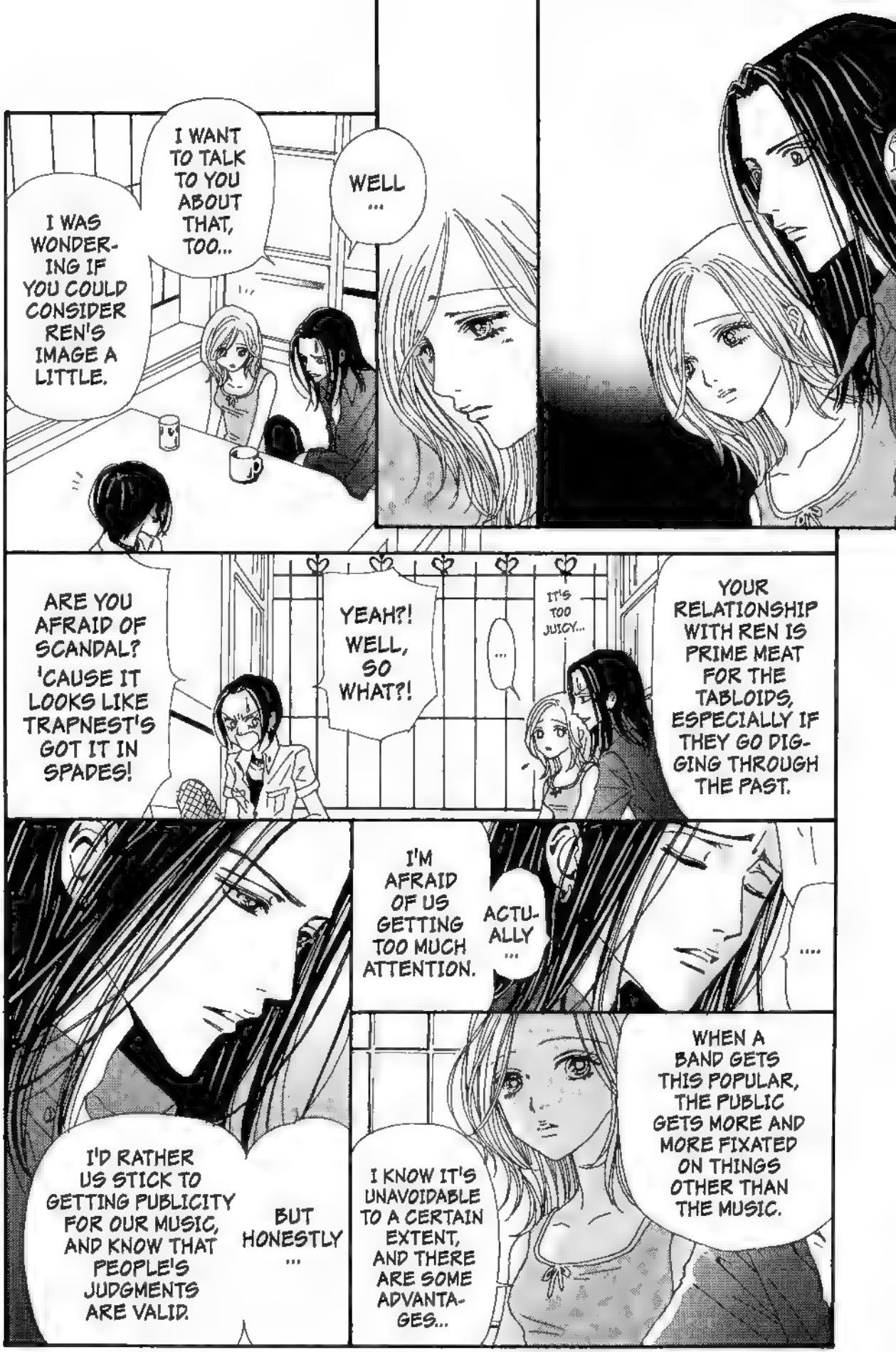




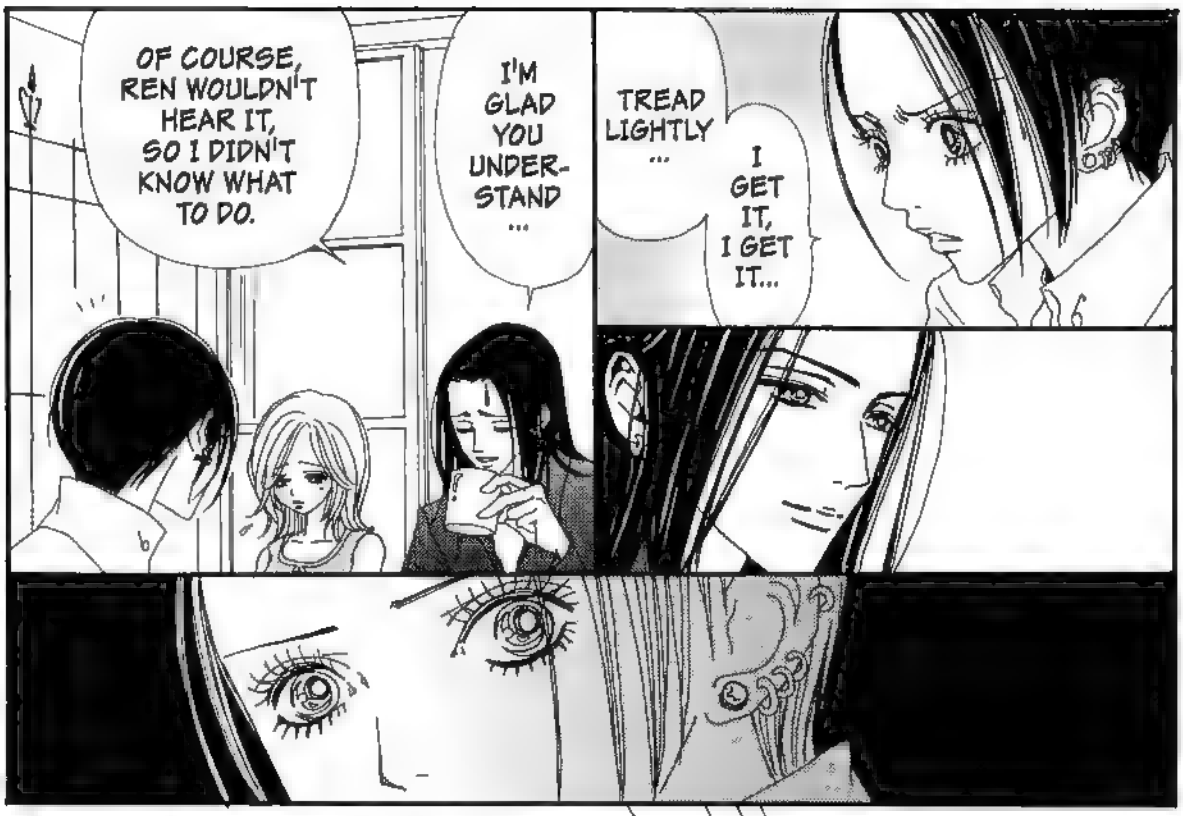
SO... SORRY, BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO FIND A NEW ROOMMATE ...


WHAT THE HELL?!

WHAT ABOUT NOBU?
WHY CAN'T EVERY-ONE JUST SLOW DOWN?
SHE NEVER EVEN TOLD ME SHE'S PREG-NANT.
AND WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING?!
I GUESS IT'S INCONVENIENT FOR YOU...THIS HAPPENING ALL OF A SUDDEN.
THIS IS TOTALLY INSANE...
I CAN PAY HER HALF OF THE RENT 'TIL YOU FIND SOMEONE.
SO LET'S JUST DITCH THIS STUPID PLACE!
I WAS GOING TO MOVE IN WITH REN ANY-WAY!
OF COURSE, THIS WAS HER DECISION TOO...
HUH?
WELL, IT'S PER-FECT TIMING!
DON'T BOTHER!


I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, TOO...
WELL ...
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD CONSIDER REN'S IMAGE A LITTLE.
ARE YOU AFRAID OF SCANDAL? 'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE TRAPNEST'S GOT IT IN SPADES!
YEAH?! WELL, SO WHAT?!
...
IT'S TOO JUICY...
YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH REN IS PRIME MEAT FOR THE TABLOIDS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY GO DIGGING THROUGH THE PAST.
I'D RATHER US STICK TO GETTING PUBLICITY FOR OUR MUSIC, AND KNOW THAT PEOPLE'S JUDGMENTS ARE VALID.
BUT HONESTLY ...
I'M AFRAID OF US GETTING TOO MUCH ATTENTION.
ACTUALLY ...
....
I KNOW IT'S UNAVOIDABLE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, AND THERE ARE SOME ADVANTAGES...
WHEN A BAND GETS THIS POPULAR, THE PUBLIC GETS MORE AND MORE FIXATED ON THINGS OTHER THAN THE MUSIC.

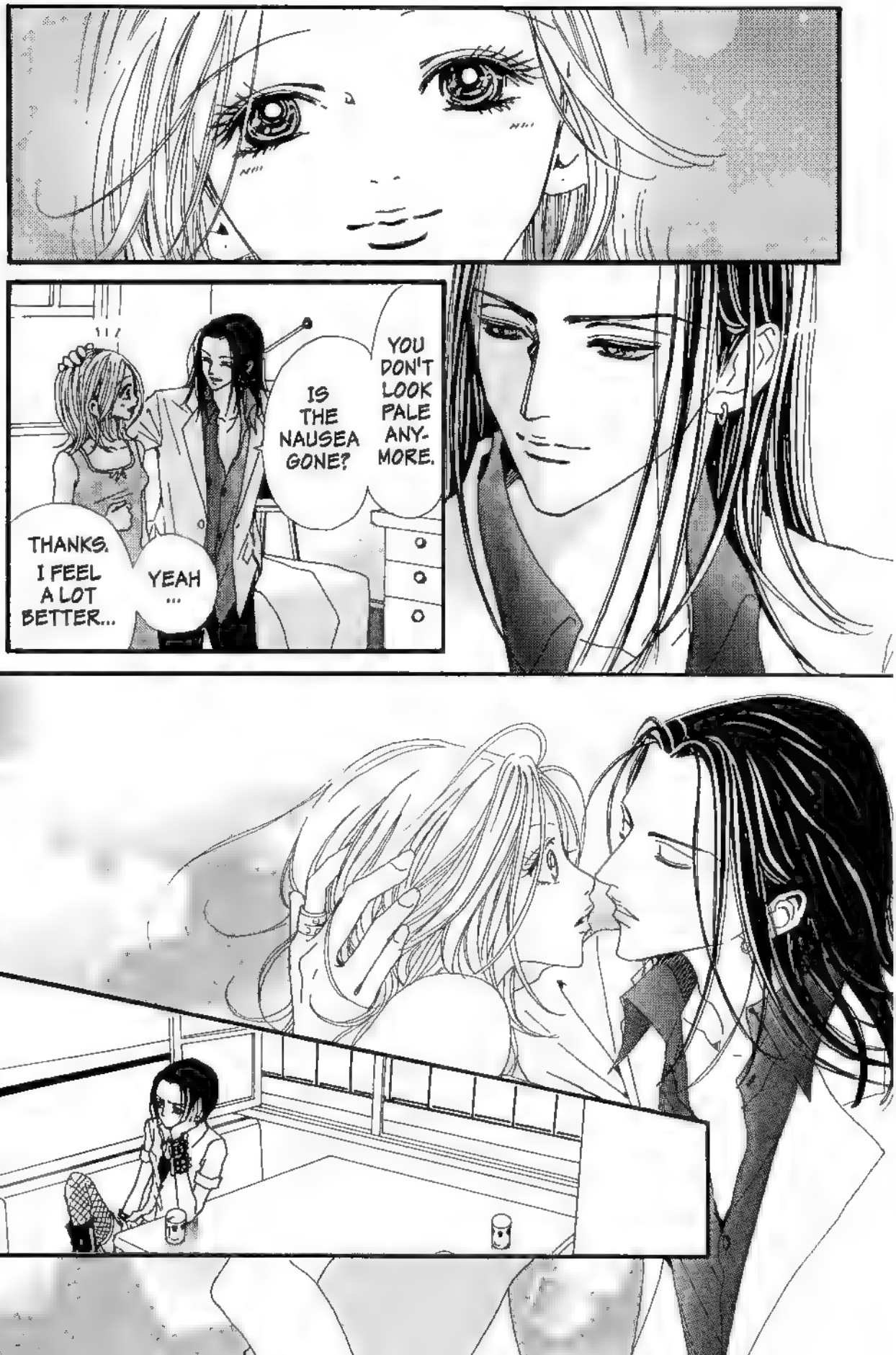
....
I'LL FEEL THE WRATH OF A FEW DIE-HARDS, BUT...
WRATH...
....
REN AND I ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT BEASTS.
THE PUBLIC DOESN'T CARE IF I GET MARRIED.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU GETTING MARRIED?!
YOU'RE A MUSICIAN, SO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT SCANDAL TO AFFECT OUR POPULARITY IN EITHER DIRECTION.
AND I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT THAT KIND OF ATTENTION RIGHT BEFORE MAKING YOUR MAJOR LABEL DEBUT, DO YOU?
I'M NOT SAYING DON'T SEE HIM, BUT...
THEN REEL IT IN A LITTLE.
OF COURSE I DON'T!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?!


OF COURSE, REN WOULDN'T HEAR IT, SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I'M GLAD YOU UNDER-STAND ...
TREAD LIGHTLY ...
I GET IT, I GET IT...

JUMP
dash dash dash
I GUESS I'LL GET GOING ...
WELL, THAT'S ALL.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME OVER DURING RECORDING...
...BUT WHEN IT'S FINISHED, I'LL GO TALK TO YOUR PARENTS.
Click
SO DON'T YOU WORRY, NANA.
AND GET SOME REST.
IT'S LIKE SHE'S HIS LAP DOG.
WHAT THE HELL ?!
I'M NOT BED-RIDDEN.
I'LL GO SEE A REAL ESTATE AGENT WHILE YOU'RE RECORDING.
WHAT KIND OF PLACE SHOULD I LOOK FOR?
....
YOU'RE MORE IMPA-TIENT THAN I AM.
YOU WANT TO PLAY AT BEING NEWLY-WEDS ALREADY ?
I MEAN ...
YOU'RE BUSY, TAKUMI, SO I THOUGHT IF THERE WAS SOME-THING I COULD DO...

YOU WANT TO MOVE OUT FAST 'CAUSE IT'S HARD TO FACE NANA, RIGHT?
beep
SHE'S PRETTY TIGHT WITH NOBU. I'M SURE THAT MAKES THINGS AWKWARD ...
AND SHE'S VISIBLY PISSED.
I'LL HAVE THE AGENCY GUYS START LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE RIGHT AWAY...
SO YOU CHECK THEM OUT WHEN YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, AND CHOOSE THE ONE YOU LIKE.
F Reira
S Mornin'
The lyrics are done! Total love story ♡
From your darling
Reira


YOU DON'T LOOK PALE ANY-MORE.
IS THE NAUSEA GONE?
YEAH ...
THANKS. I FEEL A LOT BETTER...

.....

2001
09/01 (Sat)
07:24
WE GOT PLENTY OF TIME...
...TO THE STUDIO?
TAKUMI, DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO...

SHE'S ALREADY MAD AT ME...
BUT!
WHAT ABOUT MAKING ME MAD?!
IT'S TOTALLY FINE.
IT MIGHT NOT BE GOOD FOR THE BABY...
BUT ...
BUT NANA WILL HEAR...
IT'S COOL, MAN.
SHE WON'T KNOW IF YOU BE QUIET.

I CAN'T STAND THAT ANOTHER GUY SLEPT WITH YOU.
YOU...
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING.
JUST WORRY ABOUT ME... JUST ME.

creak
I HATE THAT OLD CREAKY BED SHE BOUGHT AT MIZU-KOSHI'S STORE!

I'M TOTALLY LOSING MY MIND.
YOU'RE WAY MORE IMPORTANT THAN A BOY-FRIEND, NANA!
LIAR.
I REALLY, REALLY LIKE NOBU.
I THINK I'M TOTALLY FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM.
I WANT IT TO BE RIGHT THIS TIME.
YOU BETRAYED HIM.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO FIND A NEW ROOMMATE...
Splash
BANG
AT LEAST SAY IT WITH YOUR OWN MOUTH!
BUT I WANT YOU TO LIKE THEM TOO!
THEY'RE ONLY GOOD AS A SET.

I THOUGHT YOU LIKED THEM ?
WHY DON'T YOU EVER USE THE STRAWBERRY GLASSES ?
BUT WHAT'S THE POINT IF YOU NEVER USE THEM?
'CAUSE THERE'RE ONLY TWO OF THEM, SO IF ONE BREAKS...
BUT IF ONE BREAKS, I'LL BE SAD...
THAT'S TRUE...
YOU CAN USE THEM, BUT JUST BE REALLY CAREFUL.

CRASH

drip
JUMP

BUT IF ONE BREAKS, I'LL BE SAD...

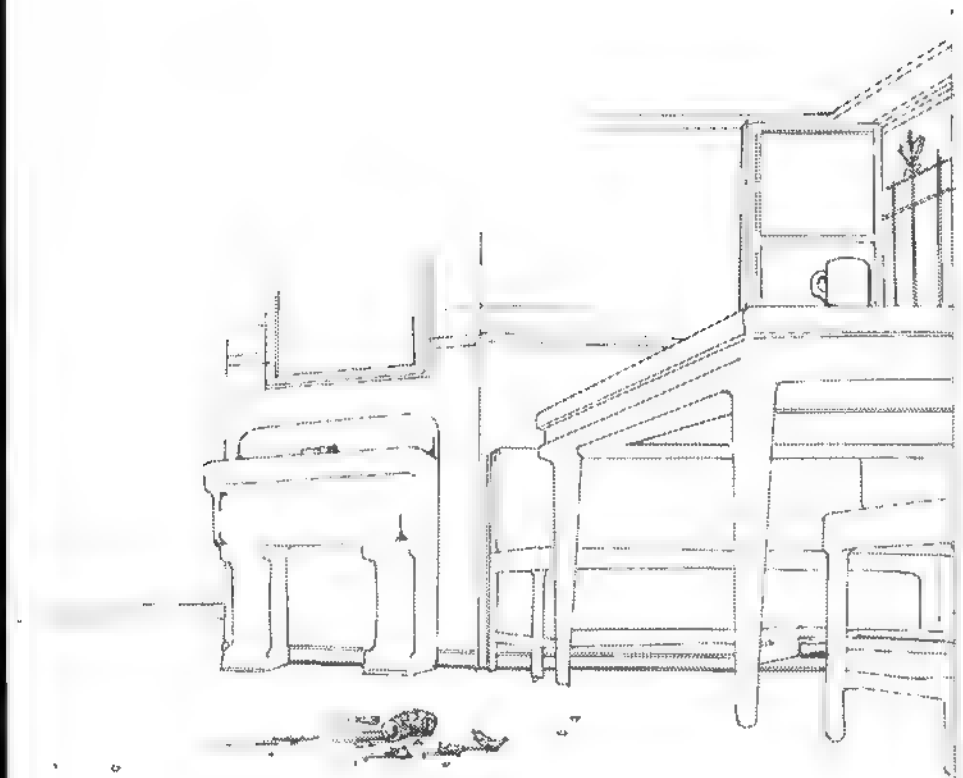
scoot
crunch

NANA?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.

I'M NOT SAD ANYMORE.

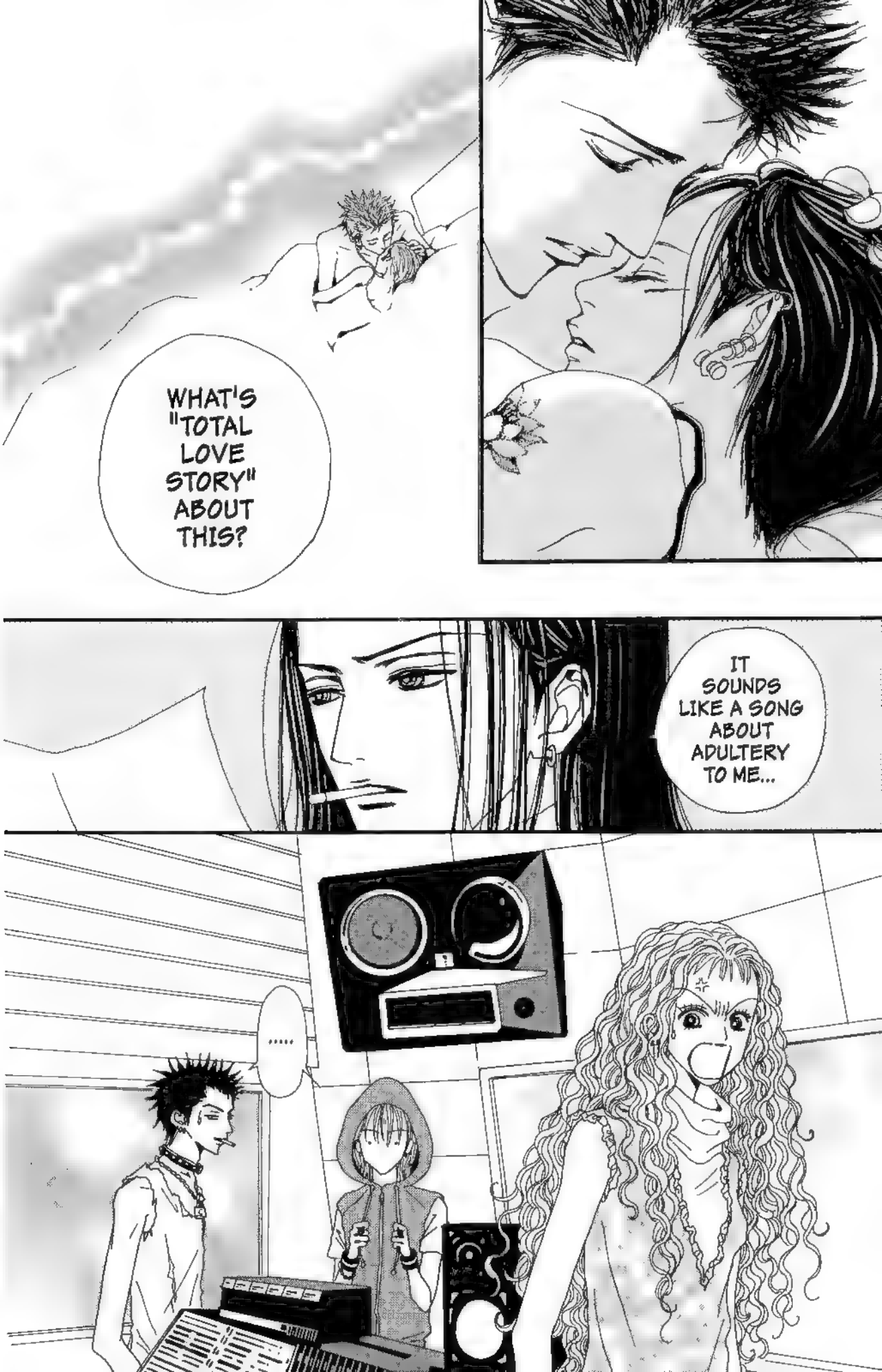
NOW THEY'RE TOGETHER.

GOOD.

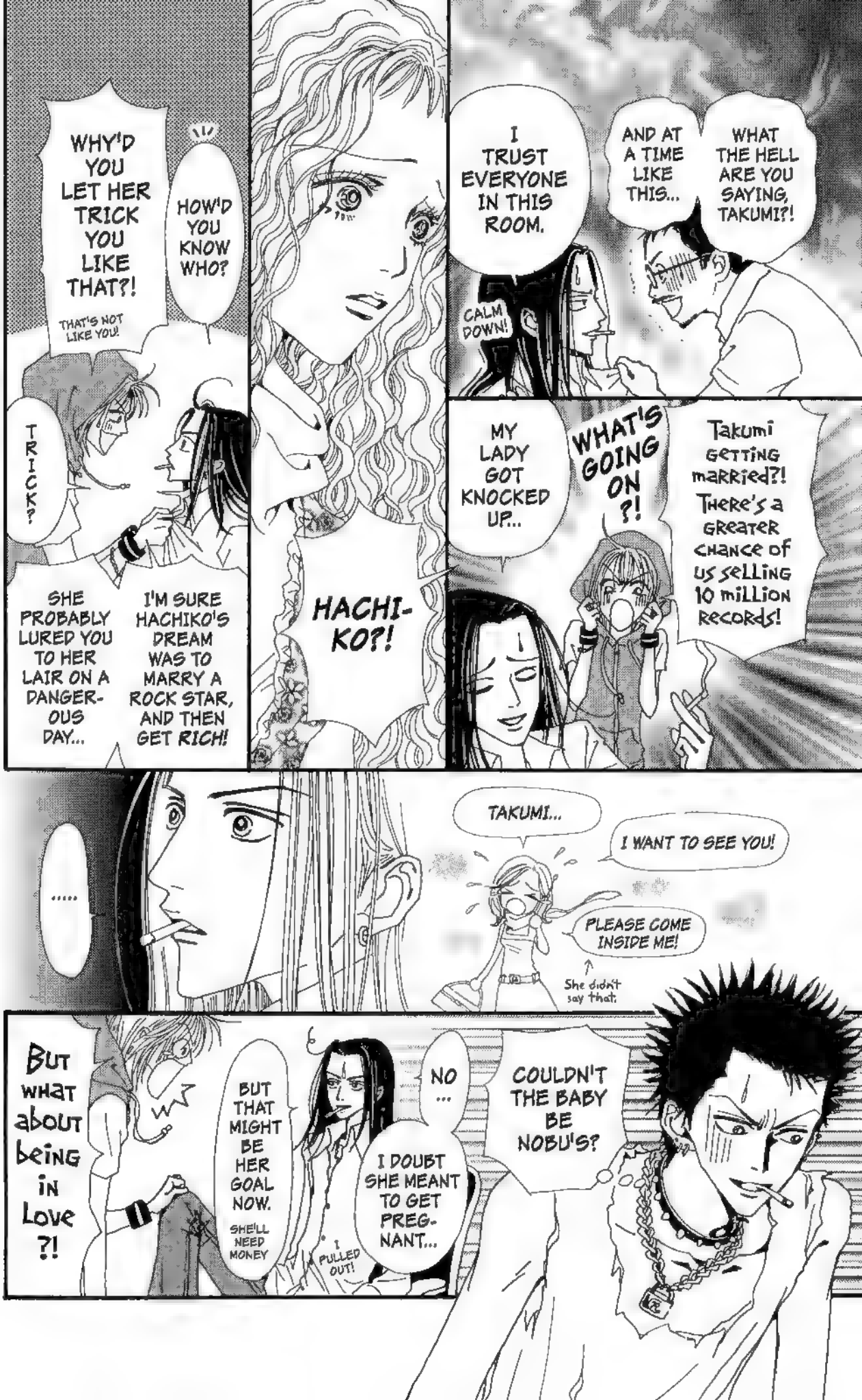


beep-beep
beep-beep
beep-beep
beep-beep
beep-beep
12:01
beep-beep
click
.....

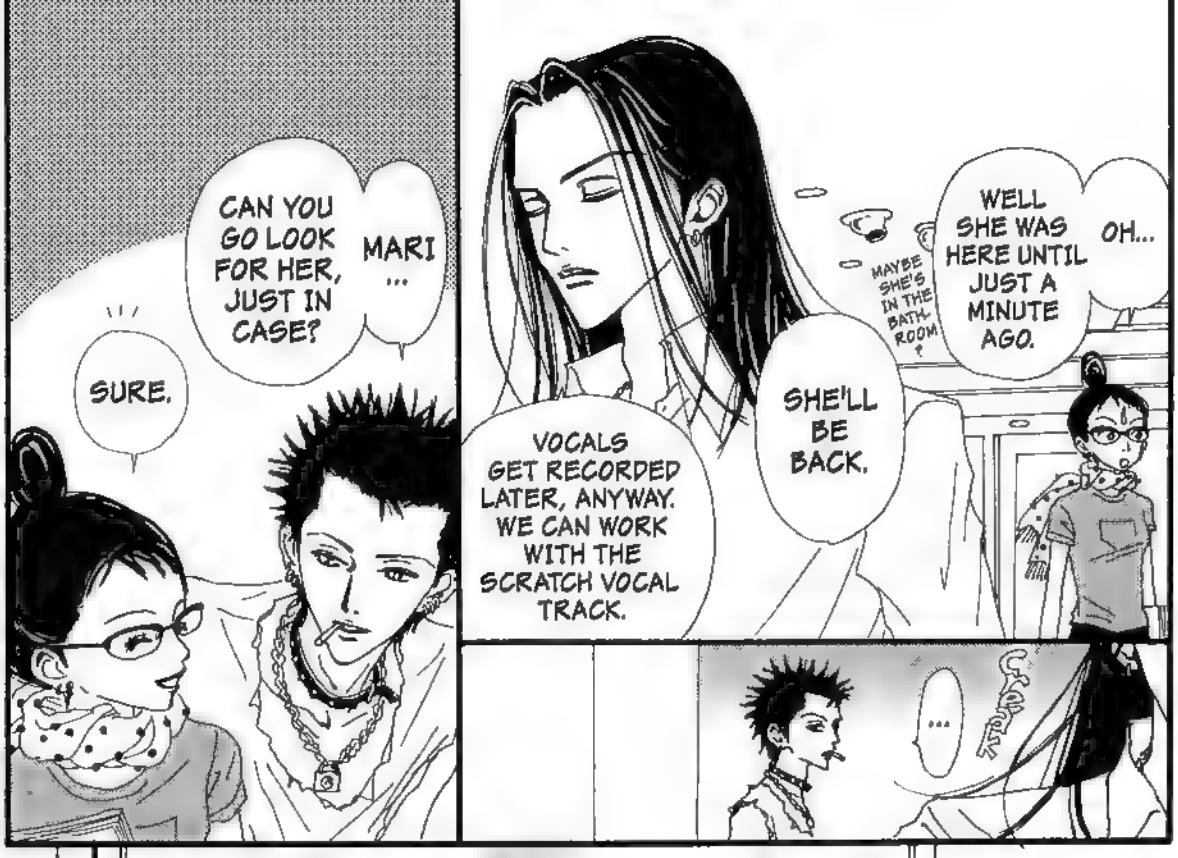
HUH?
Zzzz
WHEN DID SHE COME OVER?
slip


WHAT'S "TOTAL LOVE STORY" ABOUT THIS?
IT SOUNDS LIKE A SONG ABOUT ADULTERY TO ME...
.....

That's NOT what it's about!
I THOUGHT YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY. REIRA, ARE YOU HOOKING UP WITH A MARRIED MAN?
♪..HEART-BREAKING...
OH, 'CAUSE THERE'S NO RING, RIGHT?
BUT YOU COULD INTERPRET IT TO MEAN THAT THE GUY HAS ONE ON HIS FINGER.
I'M GETTING MARRIED. IT'S ALL RIGHT, RIGHT?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION RINGS... TAKE...
IT'S ABOUT BEING BOUND BY LOVE, BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KISS!
NO, MARI! IT'S REAL TRUE LOVE!
BUT SONGS ABOUT AFFAIRS ARE POPU-LAR!
You're getting married?!


WHY'D YOU LET HER TRICK YOU LIKE THAT?!
HOW'D YOU KNOW WHO?
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU!
TRICK?
SHE PROBABLY LURED YOU TO HER LAIR ON A DANGER-OUS DAY...
I'M SURE HACHIKO'S DREAM WAS TO MARRY A ROCK STAR, AND THEN GET RICH!
HACHI-KO?!
I TRUST EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM.
AND AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING, TAKUMI?!
CALM DOWN!
MY LADY GOT KNOCKED UP...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
Takumi getting married?!
There's a greater chance of us selling 10 million records!
.....
TAKUMI...
I WANT TO SEE YOU!
PLEASE COME INSIDE ME!
She didn't say that.
But what about being in Love?!
BUT THAT MIGHT BE HER GOAL NOW.
SHE'LL NEED MONEY
I PULLED OUT!
NO...
I DOUBT SHE MEANT TO GET PREG-NANT...
COULDN'T THE BABY BE NOBU'S?

Hideki Kasai, 45, Director
YEAH, I CAN SEE THAT.
LOVE CAN COME LATER.
SO THEY TEND TO LOVE THE PERSON WHO BEST ACCOMMO-DATES THEIR DESIRES.
PEOPLE ALWAYS LOVE THEMSELVES THE MOST...
KASAI ...
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS.
IT'S MUST-SEE TV!
I'M DYING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS WITH THIS GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN' GUY AND THAT SUPER-FICIAL CHICK. TOTAL TRAIN WRECK!
♫
LET HIM GET MARRIED, TAKE.
IT'S COOL, MAN.
WELL THEN, SHALL WE GET DOWN TO BUSI-NESS?
LET US FEED THE FANS.
WAIT ...
WHERE'S REIRA?
I CAN GET MAR-RIED IF I WANT!
DUDE, LAY OFF!
SO IT'S NOT NOBU'S BABY?
SO EVERYONE, KEEP YOUR TRAP SHUT 'TIL THEN!
ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO CONSULT THE PRESI-DENT!


MARI...
CAN YOU GO LOOK FOR HER, JUST IN CASE?
SURE.
VOCALS GET RECORDED LATER, ANYWAY. WE CAN WORK WITH THE SCRATCH VOCAL TRACK.
SHE'LL BE BACK.
MAYBE SHE'S IN THE BATHROOM?
WELL SHE WAS HERE UNTIL JUST A MINUTE AGO.
OH...
...
CRASH

CD SHOP

Eric Clapton
Acoustic Clapton
With Lyrics and Commentary
Eric Clapton
Unplugged
Acoustic Clapton
Eric Clapton
Best
Eric Clapton
Eric Clapton

seven: layla
REIRA'S YOUR REAL NAME?
REALLY ?
YEAH.
WELL, MY REAL NAME'S LAYLA...
...IN ENGLISH.
YOU KNOW CLAPTON'S "LAYLA"?
OF COURSE.
YEAH.
WELL, MY DAD WAS INTO THAT SONG AND NAMED ME AFTER IT.
I LIKE TO PLAY THAT SONG WHEN I'M ALONE IN MY ROOM SOMETIMES.
THEN I DON'T FEEL SO LONELY.
You're Down & Out
7. My Darling Layla
8. Running on Faith
BLUSH
THE JAPANESE TITLE'S DIFFERENT.
Unplugged

I'LL CALL YOU.
THAT'LL BE ¥5,505.
LAYLA
Ring ring♫
MUSIC STORE
beep
HELLO ?

HELLO?
.....
SHIN ...
WHAT'S WRONG ?
REIRA ...
WHERE ARE YOU?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN IN THE STUDIO ?

WHAT HAP-PENED ?
.....
I NEED TO...
...ASK YOU A FAVOR.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHAT IS IT?
I'LL DO ANY-THING.
WHAT IS IT?
I'M SORRY ...
.....

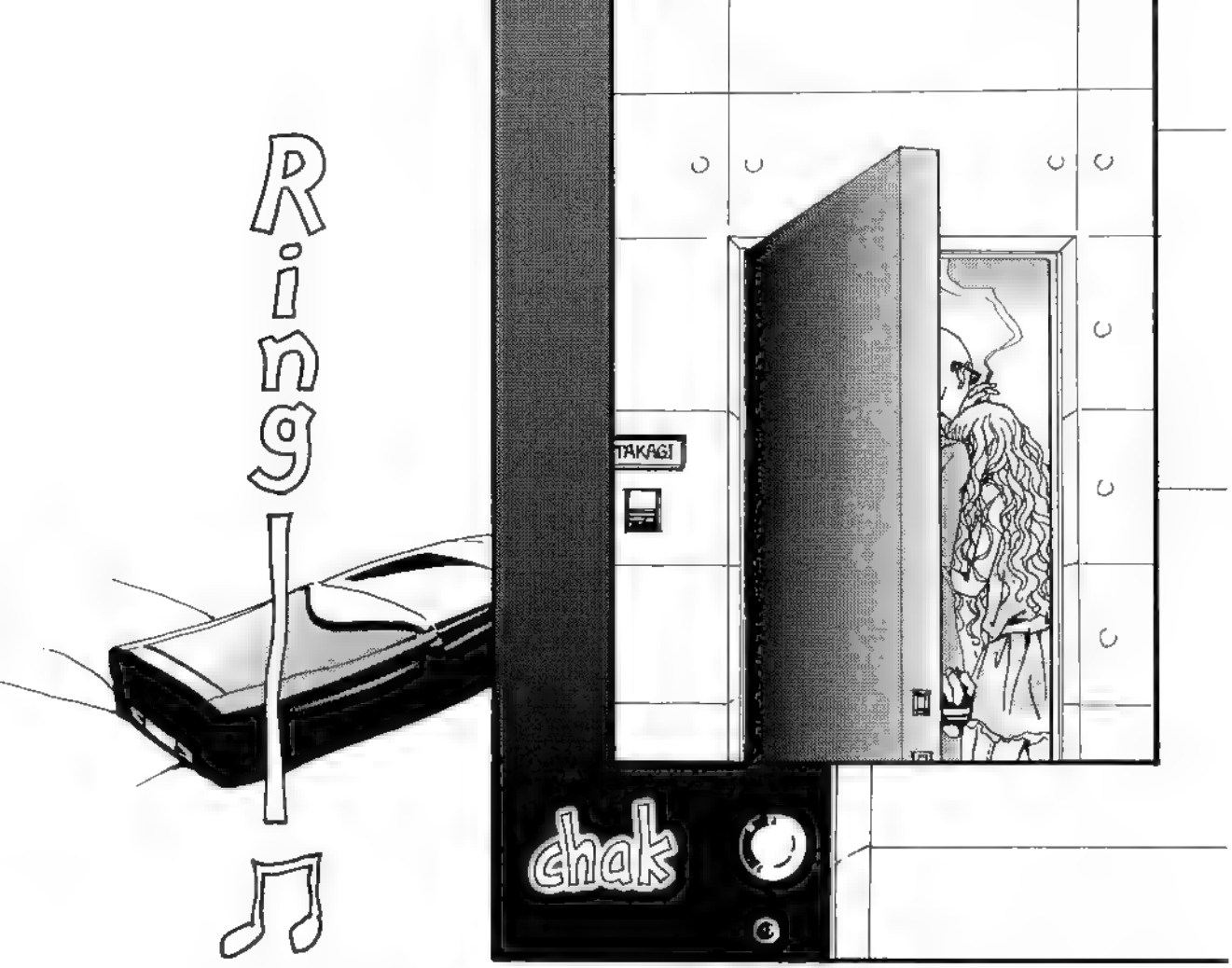
I DON'T WANT...
...ANY MORE MONEY, SO...
....
...SU'S...
WHAT?

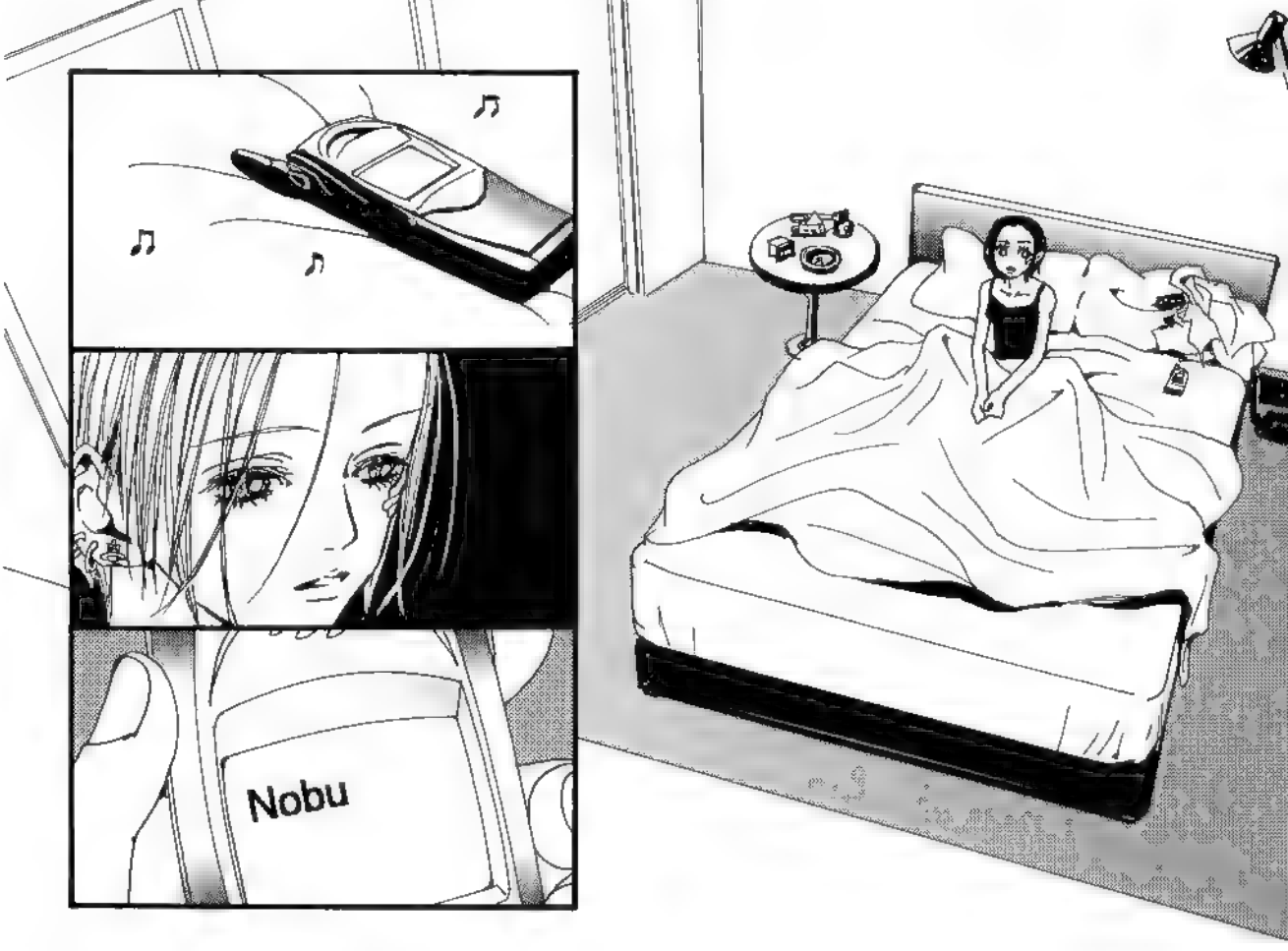
CAN YOU GIVE ME YASU'S NUMBER?

STOMP
STOMP STOMP STOMP
SLAM
VROOOM
STOMP
tap

B
Blast
Blast
Chewy
step
step
step

click
Click


Ring!
TAKAGI
chak


Nobu

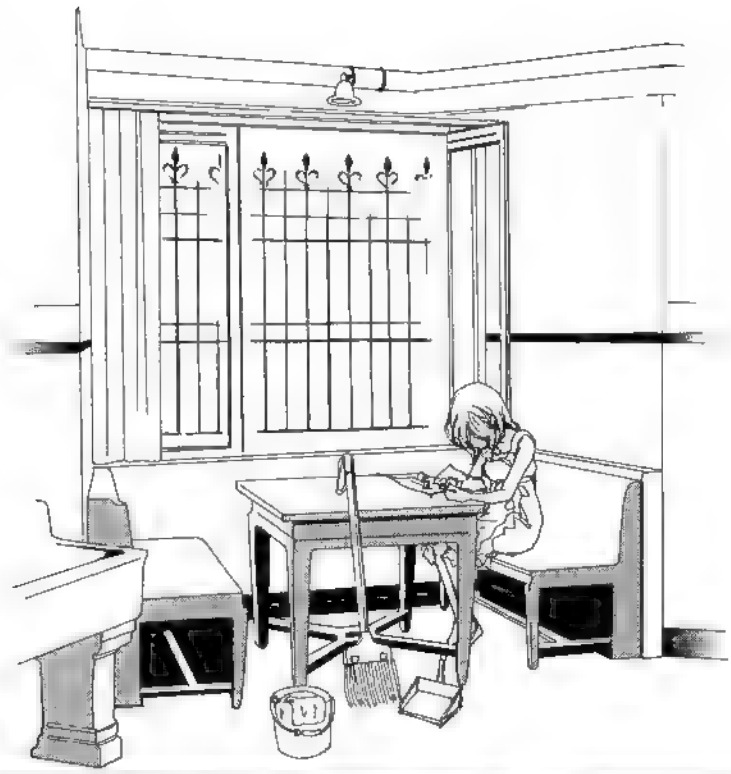
.....
NANA!
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
YOU—
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ?!

I'M SORRY...
YEAH...
.....
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU ALL MORNING!
I WAS OUT OF MY MIND YESTERDAY.
I WAS IN SHOCK.
I WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PLAYERS IN THIS DISASTER.
I TRIED, AND FAILED.
BUT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT AT ALL.
I JUST HATE MYSELF FOR BEING SO VULNERABLE AND NAIVE!
I MADE UP AN EXCUSE FOR YOU MISSING WORK.
I'VE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO YOUR TYRANNY OVER THE YEARS!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M JUST HAPPY YOU'RE ALIVE.
SO WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M AT REN'S.
.....
REN'S NOT THERE 'CAUSE THEY'RE RECORDING, RIGHT?
I JUST GOT OFF WORK.
WANT TO GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE GOING TO PRACTICE?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'M AWAKE.
I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW I GOT HERE.
... THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY WRONG WITH ME.
I THINK ...
So just listen to me vent!
I'LL pay!
NOBUO ...
Well, everyone knows that!
...WE BOUGHT TOGETHER FOR OUR APARTMENT.
IT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS...
...THE STRAWBERRY GLASS ROLLED AND WAS ABOUT TO HIT THE FLOOR.
I JUST REMEMBER...

I DON'T KNOW IF I WAS ABLE...

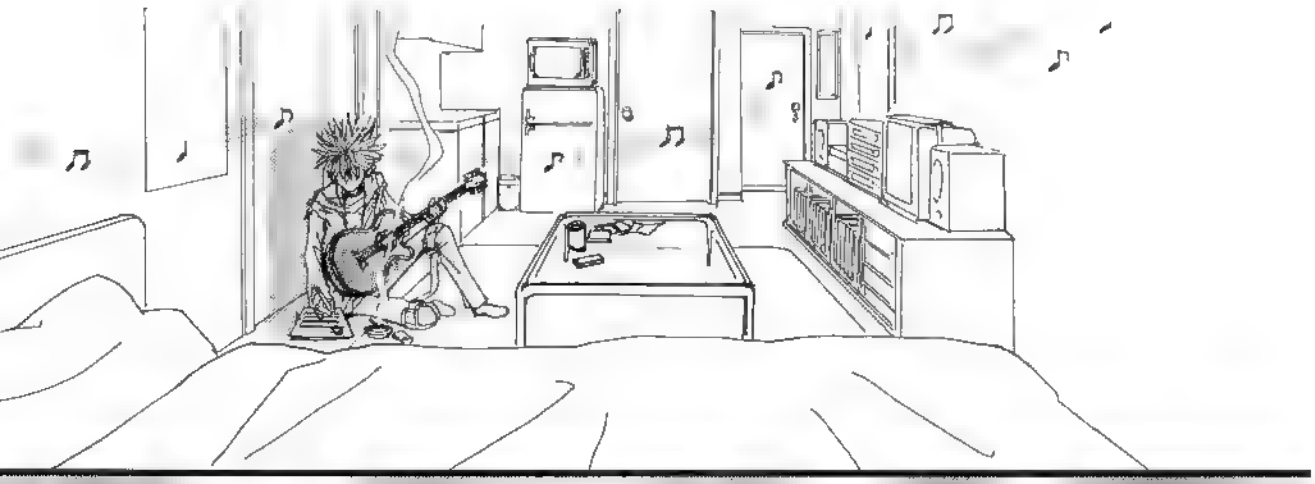
...TO CATCH THAT GLASS IN TIME.

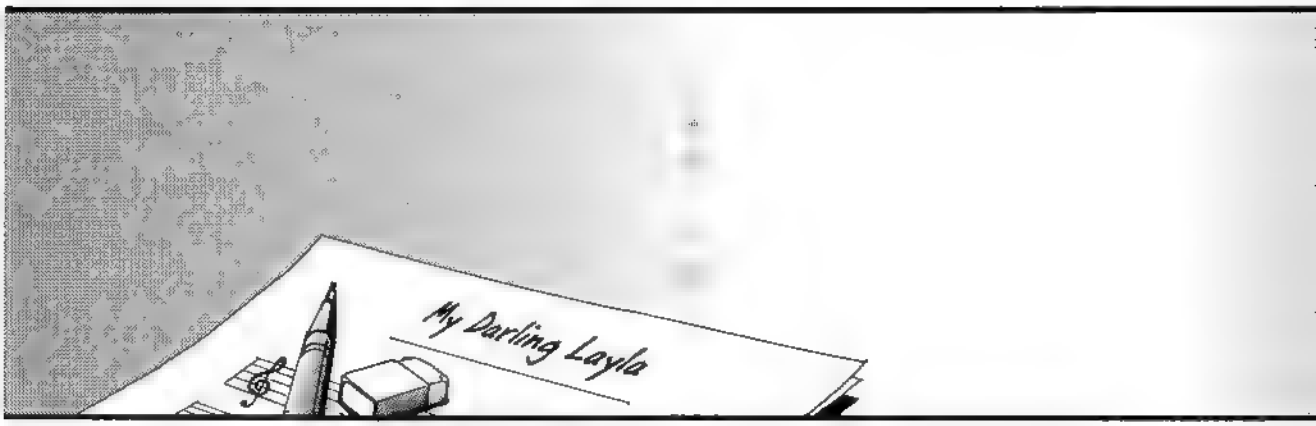


HEY, HACHI...
I WAS LIKE THAT CHEAP GLASS.
I DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO ACCEPT YOU AS YOU ARE.

BUT COMPARED TO THE LONELINESS OF LOSING EVERYTHING...

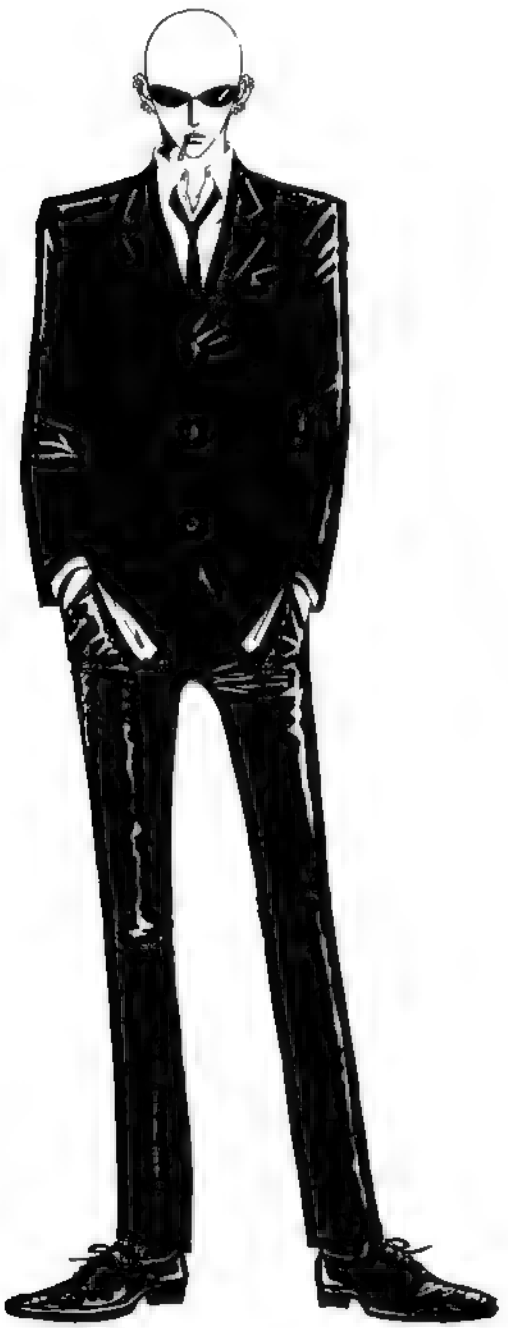
...THE PAIN OF BREAKING WAS MORE BEARABLE.





I WAS SO FRAGILE INSIDE.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.



THE CUT ON MY LEFT CHEEK— THE ONE I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW I GOT— HURT SO MUCH.

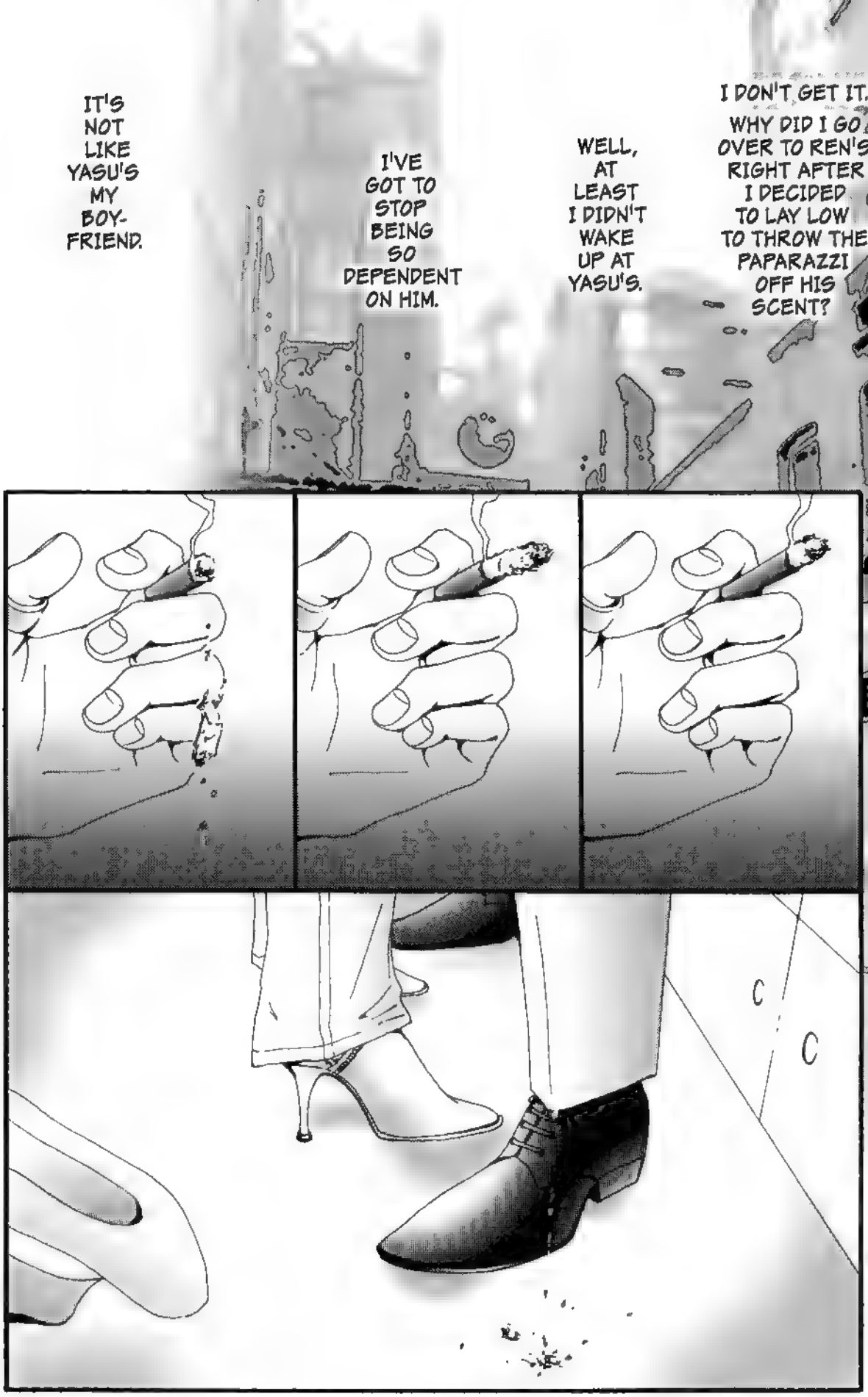
BUT WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT HACHI, WHO TOOK SUCH SPECIAL CARE OF THOSE TWO GLASSES WITHOUT BUYING MORE...

WERE STILL ON SALE AT THE ¥100 STORE.

THOSE STRAW-BERRY GLASSES...

[Chapter 30]

...AND TELL HACHI I'M SORRY.
I'LL GO HOME TONIGHT ...
THAT'LL BE ¥105, PLEASE.
THANK YOU, BYE!
I CAN'T REMEMBER, BUT I THINK THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
Seven Stars
Charcoal Filter
I THINK THE GLASS FELL AND BROKE.


I DON'T GET IT.
WHY DID I GO OVER TO REN'S RIGHT AFTER I DECIDED TO LAY LOW TO THROW THE PAPARAZZI OFF HIS SCENT?
WELL, AT LEAST I DIDN'T WAKE UP AT YASU'S.
I'VE GOT TO STOP BEING SO DEPENDENT ON HIM.
IT'S NOT LIKE YASU'S MY BOY-FRIEND.

REIRA...
I'M REALLY SORRY ...
...BUT I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK SOON.

CAN YOU STAY HERE 'TIL I GET BACK?
I'LL TRY TO COME BACK AS SOON AS POSSI-BLE.
OH, I'M SORRY ...
I'LL LOCK THE DOOR. IF ANYONE COMES BY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER.
click
flip

I'M SO SORRY YASU...
...FOR CALLING YOU LIKE THIS...
I JUST...
...RAN OUT OF THE STUDIO...
BUT I COULDN'T...
...THINK OF ANYONE ELSE I COULD TALK TO.

TAKUMI...

...JUST TOLD US HE'S GETTING MARRIED.

I JUST DIDN'T FEEL LIKE SINGING ANYMORE.

IF PEOPLE KNEW...

...THAT I JUST RAN OUT OF THE RECORDING STUDIO...

...THEY'D BE SO DISAPPOINTED.

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO OR WHERE TO GO.

I FEEL LIKE WHEREVER I GO, EVERYONE'S WATCHING ME.

I'M SCARED...

THE STAFF, THE FANS—THEY'LL THINK I'M WEAK AND UNSTABLE, THAT I'M ON MY WAY OUT.

BUT I CAN'T DO THIS. WHAT CAN I DO?

WHAT AM I WORTH
IF I QUIT SINGING?
THE CREAM OF ERIC CLAPTON

1 LAYLA (DEREK & THE DOMIN
(CREAM)
STOMP
RECORDING
SHE DIDN'T GO BACK TO THE HOTEL EITHER!
MR. TAKEDA JUST CALLED ME!

DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE ELSE REIRA MIGHT'VE GONE?
I'M NEW HERE, SO I DON'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT HER, LIKE WHO HER FRIENDS ARE, OR...
HEY!
Maybe she's over at that married guy's place!
Oh no!
Aaaaakkyo!
WELL, WHO IS SHE REALLY FRIENDS WITH?
ENOUGH...
DON'T ASK ME!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
SHE'S SO FLIGHTY.
SHE WAS ALL PUMPED ABOUT RECORDING WHEN SHE CAME IN.
BUT WHY WOULD SHE RUN OFF LIKE THAT?
YEAH, I CALLED HER OVER AND OVER. SHE'S NOT ANSWERING.
DID YOU TRY CALLING HER ON HER CELL PHONE?
DID SHE TAKE HER STUFF WITH HER?

YEAH? SO WHAT?
BUT TAKUMI, DIDN'T YOU AND REIRA GROW UP TOGETHER?
SHOULD WE START RECORD-ING ANYWAY ?
TAKUMI, WHAT DO WE DO?
.....
HARSH...
YOU'RE REIRA'S ASSISTANT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. YOUR JOB IS TO TAKE CARE OF REIRA, ALL RIGHT?
JUST CHILL, MARI.
THAT PRINCESS NEEDS A LOT OF BABY-SITTING.
RIGHT.
HOW CAN WE CONCEN-TRATE WHEN EVERYONE AROUND HERE'S FREAKING OUT?
WE CAN'T DO ANY-THING.
YEAH.
OH, I'm SORRY !
twitch twitch twitch

SLAM!
SO GET OUT THERE, HUNT HER DOWN, AND DRAG HER ASS BACK IN HERE!
ARTIST'S ROOM
2
GLUG GLUG
HE SCARES ME, TOO.
HE'S SCARY, HUH?
DON'T CRY, MARI.
AWWW...
I'M SORRY...
Pat Pat

click
It's water!
WHAT, YOU DROWNING YOUR PROBLEMS IN ALCOHOL?
IF THE BAND IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU, DON'T SAY SOMETHING THAT'LL SHOCK THE PRINCESS RIGHT BEFORE RECORDING.
YOU'RE TOO HARSH, AND YOU KNOW HOW TO PRESS ALL HER BUTTONS.
AND YOU'RE PRETTY HARSH ON MARI, TOO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW.
REIRA'S IN LOVE WITH YOU.
DUH!
SPARKLING NATURAL WATER
DON'T say that!
I'VE BEEN IGNORING IT FOREVER. DON'T CRAMP MY STYLE!

IGNORING IT MAKES THINGS WORSE.
IF YOU GET MARRIED, REIRA MIGHT NOT WANT TO SING ANYMORE.
I DON'T LOVE HER LIKE THAT.
I CAN'T HELP IT...
WHAT'S THAT?! SHE WON'T SING, JUST 'CAUSE I'M GETTING MARRIED?!
BUT IF REIRA WON'T SING, TRAPNEST IS THROUGH.
WELL, THEN THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?!
I KNOW THAT!

IF THE EMPEROR LOVES THE PRINCESS, SHE MIGHT FIND IT IN HER HEART TO SING.
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO DO IT WITH REIRA?!
SHE'S LIKE A LITTLE SISTER TO ME!
THERE'S NO WAY, MAN!
YOU'RE NOT RE-LATED.
THAT'S NOT THE PROB-LEM!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU STOP AT ANYTHING TO GET WHAT YOU WANT.
YOUR EMPIRE WILL ONLY GROW WITH A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE TO REIRA, INSTEAD OF WHAT YOU'LL GET BY MARRYING THE GIRL NEXT DOOR WHO'S AFTER YOUR WALLET.
EMPIRE?!
IT FITS.

I'M PROPOSING A STRATEGY FOR YOU, 'CAUSE YOU'RE A GREEDY GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN'!
WELL, I WOULDN'T DO IT.
WHAT IS THIS, THE EDO PERIOD?
I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO AMBITIOUS, REN.
Plonk
wig
MY SOUL ?
YOU DITCHED YOUR LADY, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR OLD BAND, AND SOLD YOUR SOUL FOR SUCCESS!
I BOUGHT YOU OUT!
HYPOCRITE!
DON'T GET ALL HIGH-AND-MIGHTY ON ME!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?!
YOU RULED THE ROOST JUST PLAYING WHATEVER YOU WANTED IN LITTLE DIVE BARS AND HOUSE PARTIES.
YOU WERE JUST A PUNK THROUGH AND THROUGH.
ARE YOU TRYING TO BE THE MASKED RIDER ?
YOU'RE LIKE AN OLD SCHOOL HERO.
WELL, YOU'RE COOL NOW, IN A MAIN-STREAM WAY.
I WANNA HEAR YOUR SOUL SHOUT, REN!

AS THE EMPIRE EXPANDS, YOU GET MORE CLAUSTRO-PHOBIC.
IT'S SO RIDICU-LOUS.
WHERE EVEN I CAN'T LOVE HER.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I LOCKED MY DEAR LITTLE SISTER AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER.
IT'S THE GREATEST SIN OF MY LIFE.

THE CREAM OF ERIC CLAPTON
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW.
SHE ONLY KNOWS HOW TO SING. SHE'S IGNORANT ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE.
I WISH THERE WAS A PRINCE WHO'D CLIMB THAT TOWER AND HOLD HER.
Ring
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST TURN YOUR PHONE OFF DURING RECORDING?!
I DON'T SEE ANYONE RECORDING.
FINE, BUT...
AT LEAST TURN THE RINGER OFF.
WHY'S YOUR RING TONE AN ANIME SONG?

HELLO, DARLING?
NO, NO— NO PROB-LEM. ♡
THE EMPEROR'S IN A BAD MOOD, SO WE CAN'T WORK.
HE MAKES MARI CRY, IT'S AWFUL.
....
WHO'S "DARLING"?
WHERE?
HE'S RIGHT NEXT TO ME! ♡

WHO IS IT?!
HER FORMER PRINCE.
BUT HE'S BALD.

EX-CUSE ME!
UM!
ARE YOU TAKUMI FROM TRAP-NEST?

Eek
CAN I SHAKE YOUR HAND?
I'M A BIG FAN!
MOMMY, WHO'S THAT?
IS HE THE SINGER?
NO, I PLAY BASS.
plunk

THIS'LL MAKE REIRA HATE ME AGAIN.
SORRY ...
...TO BOTHER YOU WHEN YOU'RE SO BUSY.
BUT TO HEAR HER SAY SHE'S WORTH-LESS IF SHE'S NOT SINGING ...
I DIDN'T BREAK UP WITH HER TO HEAR HER SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU DID SOME-THING ABOUT IT.
BEING HATED IS MY EXCLU-SIVE RIGHT.
IF YOU'RE SO SURE, WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

creak
slam
STOMP
STOMP

Yasu! You sold me out!
BALDY!!
THE CREAM OF ERIC CLAPTON
REIRA— PLEASE!
AAHHH!
I'M NOT FORCING YOU TO GO ANY-WHERE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
AAH NOO!!
REIRA, CALM DOWN!
IT'S OKAY! THEY'RE POSTPONING THE RECORDING!

TAKUMI...
...WENT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE RECORD LABEL HIMSELF TO ASK...
...TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF 'TIL YOU CAN SING AGAIN, REIRA.
WE'LL STILL HAVE TO REARRANGE THE SCHEDULE, BUT THE WEEK YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE RECORDING, YOU CAN DEFINITELY TAKE OFF.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
TAKUMI MIGHT SAY HARSH THINGS, BUT HE CARES ABOUT YOU, REIRA.
TAKUMI...
... ABANDONED ME.
HE GAVE UP ON ME.
NO, MARI...
WHAT?

WHO NEEDS A SINGER WHO JUST RUNS AWAY FROM EVERY-THING?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I'M SORRY MARI.
I'LL GO BACK TO THE STUDIO NOW, SO PLEASE JUST CONTACT EVERYONE.
.....
BUT ...
...CAN YOU REALLY SING IN THIS STATE?
DON'T TAKE AWAY MY CHANCE TO SING!
JUST— PLEASE!

IT'S THE ONLY THING I'VE EVER HAD...
ENOUGH TRAPNEST ALREADY, ALL RIGHT?!
WHAT AN ANNOYING PLACE.
WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE SOON!
UM, SORRY!
You're ruining some good ramen!
Play Enka!
Enka!

I MEAN, REN'S THE GUITAR PLAYER. AT LEAST LIKE THAT PART OF IT.
IF THEY'VE GOT SATELLITE RADIO HERE, OF COURSE THEY'RE PLAYING THE HITS.
YOU REALLY SHOULD GET THAT CHECKED OUT.
WHAT ?
I'LL GO WITH YOU.
AND YOUR FACE GOT CUT!
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S KIND OF FREAKY YOU BLACKED OUT OR SOMETHING?
.....
flip
REN WOULDN'T WRITE A SONG LIKE THAT.
GO SEE A DOCTOR.
WHAT IF YOU HIT YOUR HEAD OR THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY WRONG?
BUT YOU'VE BEEN SAYING IT, TOO!
NO!
WHY DO YOU KEEP SAYING THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?! IT'S RUDE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
IF I TELL YOU, YOU'LL PROBABLY RUB SALT IN THE WOUND.
THAT WAS SOME GOOD GRUB! ♡
I'LL LISTEN TO YOU WHINE, AS PROMISED.
YOU'RE SO ANNOYING!
MAN, I NEVER SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU!
I'M FINE!
....

I WANT TO HEAR IT!
HOW CAN EVERYTHING GO TO HELL LIKE THIS IN JUST ONE DAY?!
Is this a natural disaster?!
EVERY-THING?
.....
YOU DON'T KNOW?
WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO?
YOU'RE USE-LESS.
WHERE WERE YOU HIDING ALL NIGHT?!
WHEN HACHI WAS GOING THROUGH SO MUCH!
YOU'RE SO COLD!
IF YOU'RE HER FRIEND, YOU SHOULD'VE GONE TO SEE HER RIGHT AWAY AND JUST LISTENED TO HER.

YOU WENT TO SEE HER?
BUT SINCE YOU'RE HER BEST FRIEND ...
...SHE MIGHT'VE TOLD YOU THE TRUTH.
SHE JUST...
...LAY THERE AND CRIED AND APOLOGIZED. SHE WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING.
BUT WHEN I WENT HOME THIS MORNING, HACHIKO DIDN'T SAY A WORD TO ME.
TAKUMI DID ALL THE TALKING.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. TELL ME.
NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, I WON'T FREAK OUT.
WHAT'D HE SAY?

THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED.
YOU'RE FREAK-ING OUT!
IT'S TOTALLY INSANE, RIGHT?
WHO WOULDN'T FREAK OUT?!

NOBU, I'M SO SORRY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO...
I KNEW IT WAS OVER. JUST LOOKING AT NANA YESTERDAY...
YEAH ...
YOU ALWAYS CALLED HER "HACHI" IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ELSE...
SHE'S ... "NANA" ...
I GUESS I KNEW THAT DEEP DOWN INSIDE. ...IN LOVE WITH TAKUMI, NO MATTER WHAT.
BUT...
I WAS GOING OUT WITH HER...
...SO WHY HASN'T SHE TOLD ME ANYTHING?

WAS I IRRESPON-SIBLE?
WAS I REALLY THAT UNAVAIL-ABLE TO HER?
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO CRY, NOBUO!
WHAT?

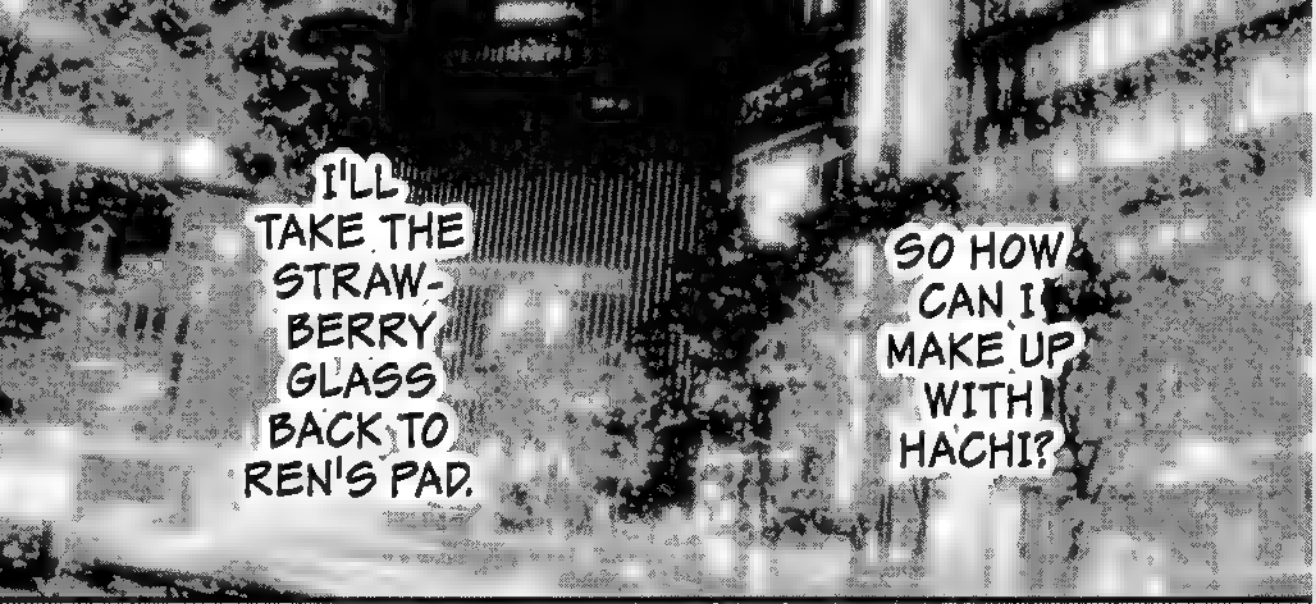
IN MY ARMS!
SQUEEZE
What're you doing?!
DON'T BE EMBARRASSED!
IT'S BETWEEN YOU AND ME!
EVERYONE'S STARING AT US!
LET GO OF ME!
WHO CARES?
YOU'RE TOO SHORT TO BE COOL ANYWAY!
Who're you calling SHORT?!
At least I'm taller than YOU are!
I KNOW THAT!
AND I ALSO KNOW THAT YOUR HEART'S WAY BIGGER THAN MINE.

I HATED EVERY-ONE AND EVERY-THING 'TIL I MET YOU.
I DIDN'T TRUST ANY-ONE...
BUT THEN I MET YOU, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I THOUGHT MAYBE THIS WORLD ISN'T SUCH A BAD PLACE.
TERASHIMA.
THANKS FOR LOANING ME THE CDS!
YOU'RE NOT...
... IRRESPON-SIBLE OR UNAVAIL-ABLE, NOBU.

DON'T GET TWISTED JUST 'CAUSE THIS GIRL DITCHED YOU...

UMMM... YOU'RE HURTING ME.
YOUR SPIKES ARE STABBING MY NECK.
NOBU'S SHOULDERS, WAY SCRAWNIER THAN REN'S, WEREN'T EVEN SHAKING.
MY PLAN WAS TO COMFORT HIM, BUT IT TURNED OUT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

I OWE A MOUNTAIN OF DEBT TO NOBU...

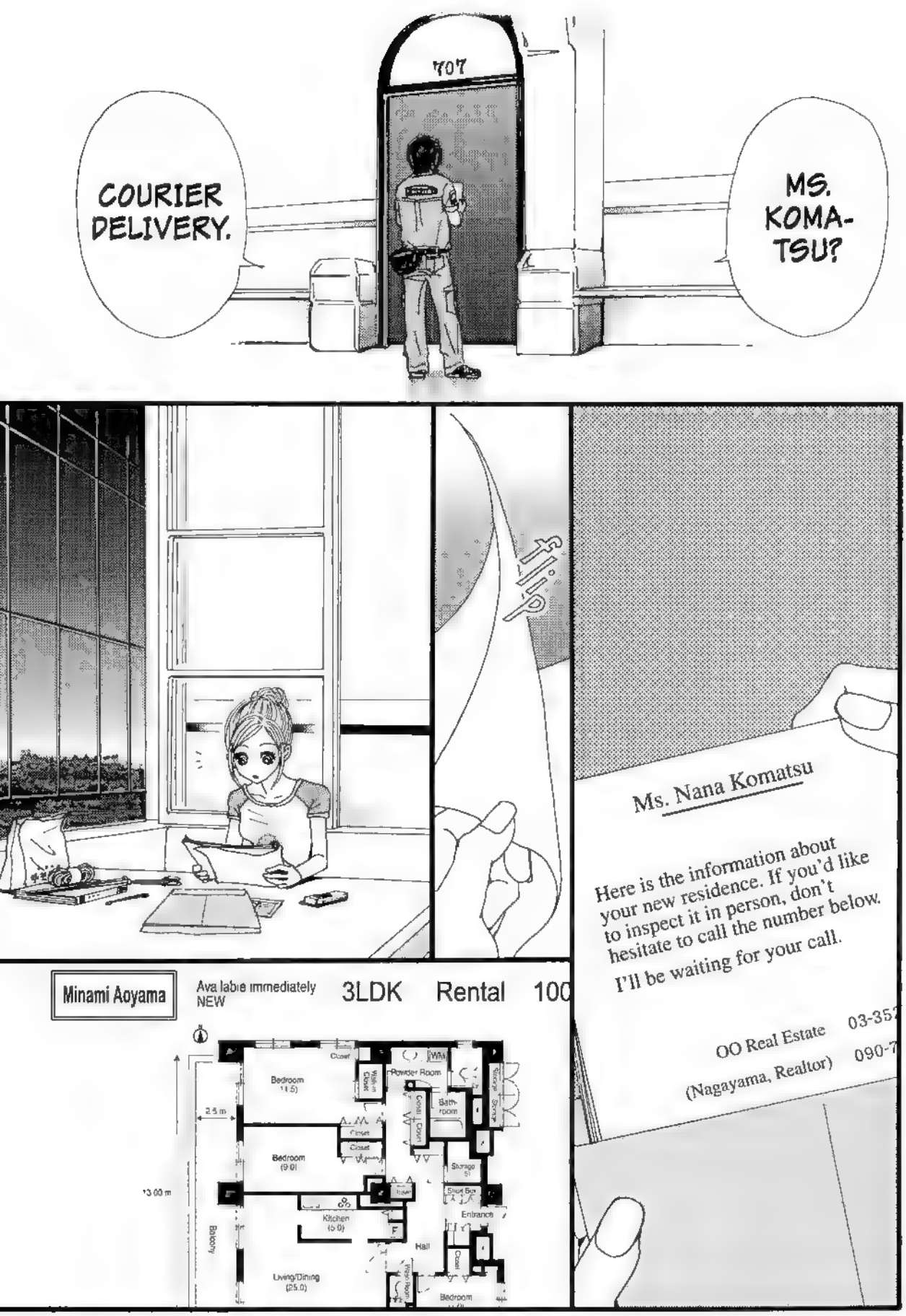


Weekly SEARCH
Editorial Department

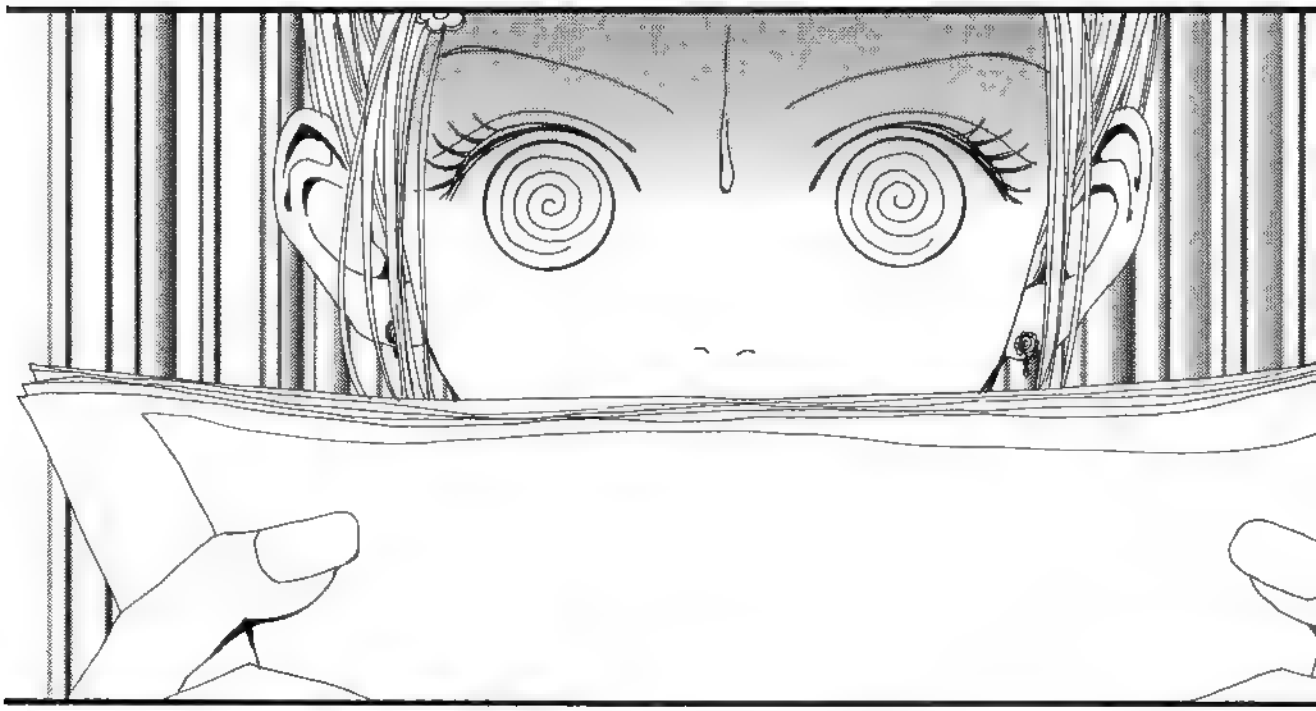
YOU STAKED OUT HIS PAD FOR A MONTH, AND YOU COULDN'T GET ONE PHOTO OF THEM TOGETHER?!
THEIR SCHEDULES CONFLICT, SO THEY DON'T CROSS PATHS VERY OFTEN.
AND THEY DON'T GO OUT ANYWHERE TOGETHER AT ALL.
NO MORE EXCUSES!
THEY PROBABLY SPOTTED YOU AND GOT SMART!
WHY DO I HIRE SUCH IDIOTS?!

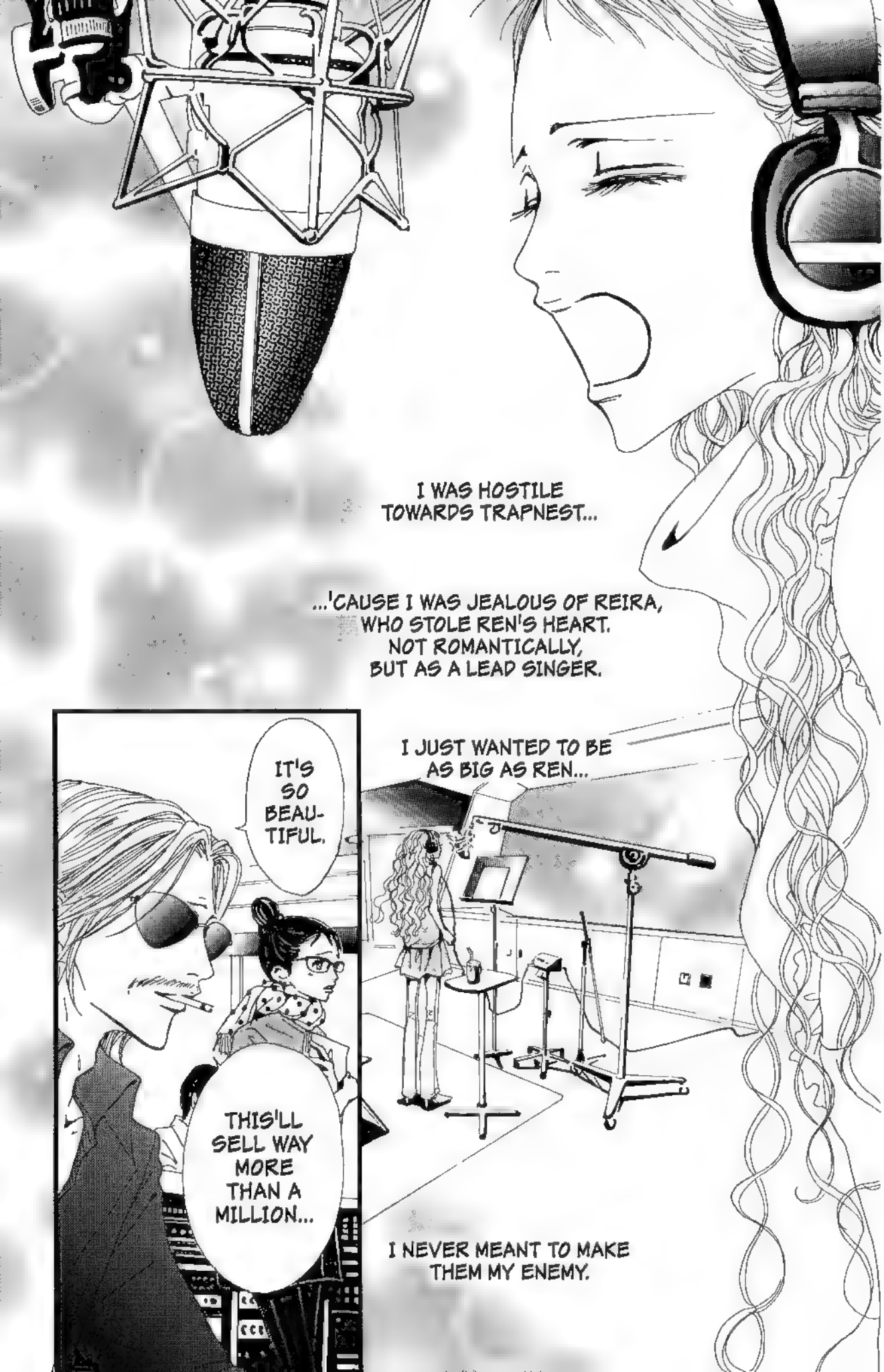
I'M SENDING YOU TO DIG SOME-THING UP IN THEIR HOME-TOWN.
KURATA ...
WHAT ?
TRAPNEST IS RECORDING IN THE STUDIO ALL WEEK.
THERE'S NO POINT STAKING THEM OUT.
....
YOU WANT SOMEONE ELSE TO BREAK THIS STORY ?
NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST WRITE THE STORY USING SHOTS OF THEM TAKEN SEPARATELY ?
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU HIT UP EVERY DIVE THAT'S GOT ANY CONNECTION TO REN HONJO AND NANA OSAKI.
GIMME A BREAK ...
Confidential
GAIA SEEMS TO BE DROPPING THE BALL WITH BLAST'S MAJOR LABEL DEBUT...
...BUT THIS WILL STILL BE THE HOTTEST GOSSIP AROUND!
I'LL SHOOT UP SOME BIG FIREWORKS— IT'LL INSTANTLY THROW BLAST IN THE RING WITH TRAPNEST.

YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME, MISS NANA OSAKI.
LET'S START THE ULTIMATE BATTLE OF THE BANDS!


707
COURIER DELIVERY.
MS. KOMA-TSU?
flip
Ms. Nana Komatsu
Here is the information about your new residence. If you'd like to inspect it in person, don't hesitate to call the number below.
I'll be waiting for your call.
OO Real Estate 03-35
(Nagayama, Realtor) 090-7
Minami Aoyama
Ava labie immediately
NEW
3LDK Rental 100
Bedroom (11.5)
Closet
Walk-in Closet
Powder Room
W/M
Storage
Shower
Bath-room
Closet
Closet
2.5 m
Bedroom (9.0)
Closet
Storage
Shoe Box
13.00 m
Kitchen (5.0)
Entrance
Balcony
Hall
Closet
Living/Dining (25.0)
Wash Room
Bedroom

Rent ¥1,000,000

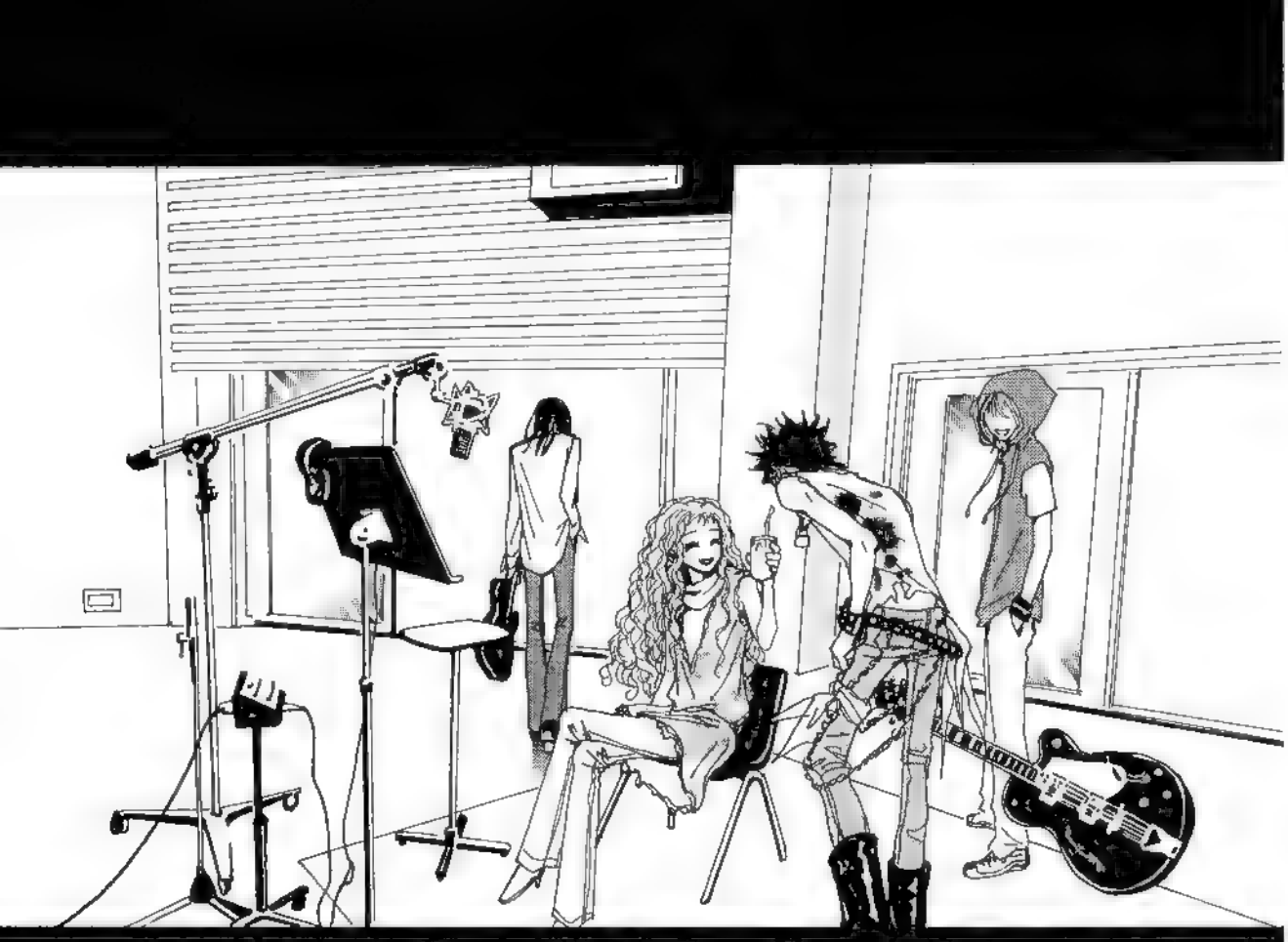



I WAS HOSTILE TOWARDS TRAPNEST...
...'CAUSE I WAS JEALOUS OF REIRA, WHO STOLE REN'S HEART. NOT ROMANTICALLY, BUT AS A LEAD SINGER.
I JUST WANTED TO BE AS BIG AS REN...
IT'S SO BEAU-TIFUL.
THIS'LL SELL WAY MORE THAN A MILLION...
I NEVER MEANT TO MAKE THEM MY ENEMY.

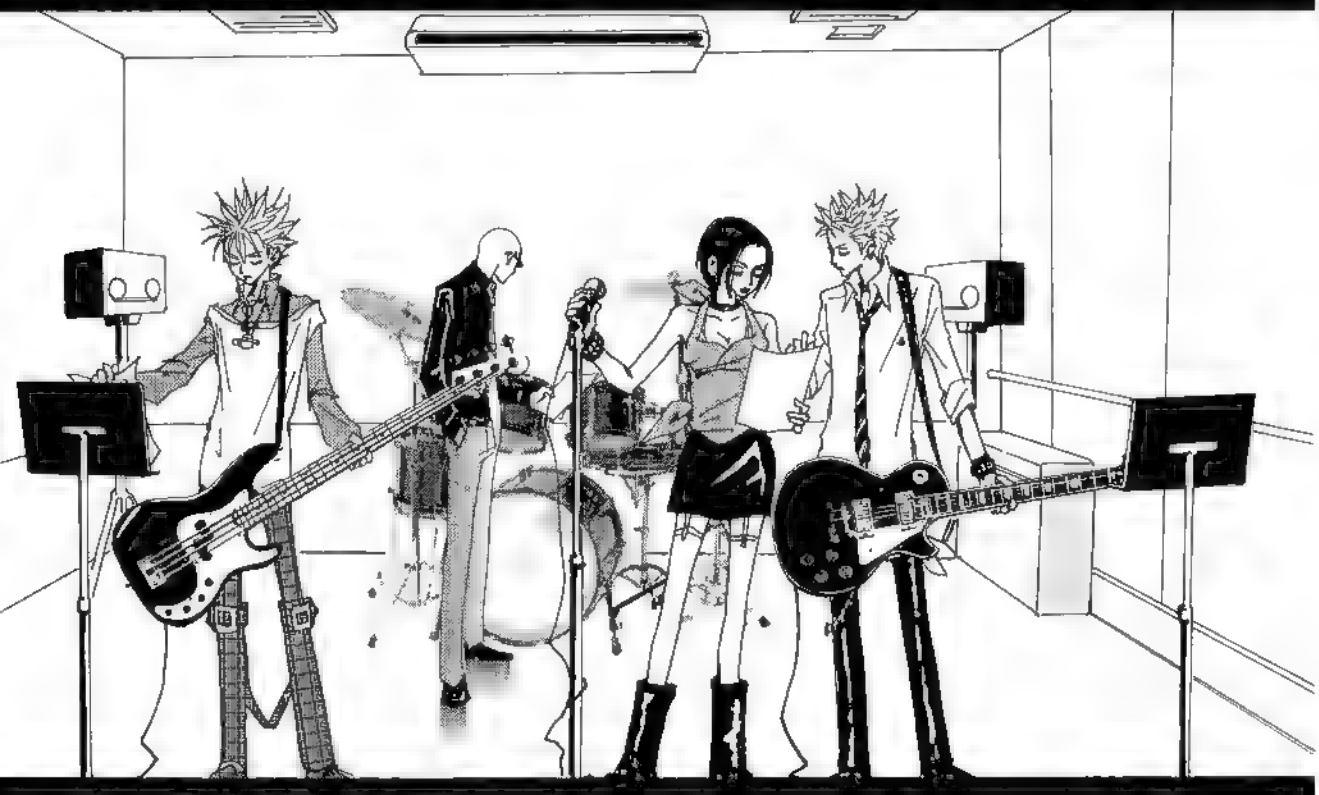
HOW HARD ARE YOU GOING TO PUSH HER?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE MORE LIKE A BAD MAGISTRATE THAN AN EVIL EMPEROR.
AND GET OFF YOUR EDO PERIOD KICK.
?

BUT SINCE THE DAY YOU WERE TAKEN AWAY...

...I WAS DETERMINED TO CRUSH THEM.



I WAS GOING TO STEAL YOU BACK...



...AT ANY COST.

I DON'T WANT TO COMMU-NICATE THROUGH SOME STUPID MACHINE.

IT ONLY TESTS THE STRENGTH OF PEOPLE'S BONDS.

I KNOW I'M THE ONE WHO'S STAYING OUT AND NOT TELLING HACHI, BUT SHE WON'T EVEN EMAIL ME.

SHE'S JUST GETTING MORE AND MORE SELF-CENTERED, AND IT'S ANNOYING ME.

I NEVER SHOULD'VE GOTTEN A CELL PHONE.

NANA
[Chapter 31]

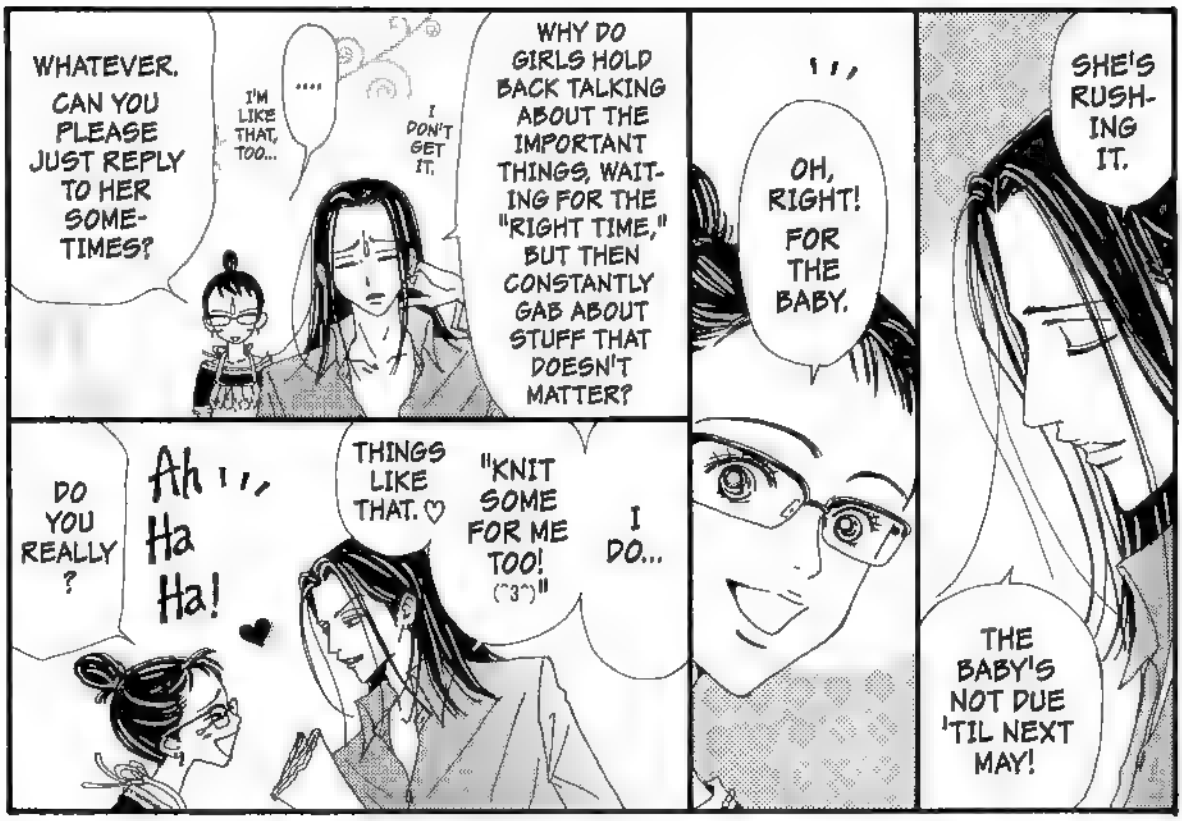
No New Messages
I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME IN NINE DAYS NOW.
THE LONGER I STAY AWAY, THE HARDER IT IS TO GO BACK.
beep
MONDAY
01 09/10
07:15

I CAN'T JUST KEEP STAYING HERE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
click
flip
302
CLICK
creak
Stomp

RECORDING S
I WONDER WHAT HACHI'S BEEN DOING ALL BY HERSELF IN THE APARTMENT.
I'M SURE HACHI'S BEEN LONELY EVERY DAY.
...AND THE BAND'S BEEN CRASHING TOGETHER AT THE STUDIO'S APARTMENT.
TRAP-NEST'S RECORD-ING KEEPS DRAGGING ON...
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT SELF-CENTERED DUDE CONTACTING HER MUCH.

GOOD MORN-ING.
BUT I CAN'T FEEL SORRY FOR HER.
DID YOU SLEEP WELL?
YOU'RE UP EARLY, TAKUMI.
SHE MADE HER BED, SHE CAN LIE IN IT.
SO HOW'S REIRA?
IS THAT A FACT?
WELL ...
NO. I'M ABOUT TO TAKE A NAP.
I GUESS THAT MEANS THE MEDICINE'S WORKING.
SHE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT.

MAYBE IF I HAD YOU IN MY ROOM, THEN I COULD SLEEP. ♡
I CAN'T TAKE THIS LIFE OF ABSTI-NENCE ANY-MORE!
YOU'RE SO CRUEL.
Gimme a break!
YOU CAN'T SLEEP EITHER, TAKUMI?
REALLY?
I SHOULD GET SOME TOO.
SLEEP-ING PILLS?
WE'RE SO FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE, TAKE'S ABOUT TO LOSE IT.
I WISH.
THEN YOU BETTER FINISH RECORDING TODAY, DUDE.
SHE SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S HAVING FUN.
LIKE, "I KNITTED SOME SOCKS! (^_^)"
SHE SENDS ME A BUNCH OF EMAILS EVERY DAY...
NO, NOT REALLY.
SOCKS?!
I BET YOUR FIANCÉE'S LONELY AND ABOUT TO LOSE IT, TOO.


WHATEVER. CAN YOU PLEASE JUST REPLY TO HER SOME-TIMES?
I'M LIKE THAT, TOO...
....
I DON'T GET IT.
WHY DO GIRLS HOLD BACK TALKING ABOUT THE IMPORTANT THINGS, WAITING FOR THE "RIGHT TIME," BUT THEN CONSTANTLY GAB ABOUT STUFF THAT DOESN'T MATTER?
DO YOU REALLY ?
Ah!!, Ha Ha!
THINGS LIKE THAT.♡
"KNIT SOME FOR ME TOO! (^3^)"
I DO...
!!,
OH, RIGHT! FOR THE BABY.
SHE'S RUSHING IT.
THE BABY'S NOT DUE 'TIL NEXT MAY!

I WAS HOPING THAT HACHI...

BUT YOU HAVE TO WEAR 'EM!
I'D DIE TO SEE THAT!
HA HA!
HOW EMBARRASSING.
AND THEY LOOK JUST LIKE THE BABY'S ?
BUT WHAT IF SHE REALLY KNITS THEM ?

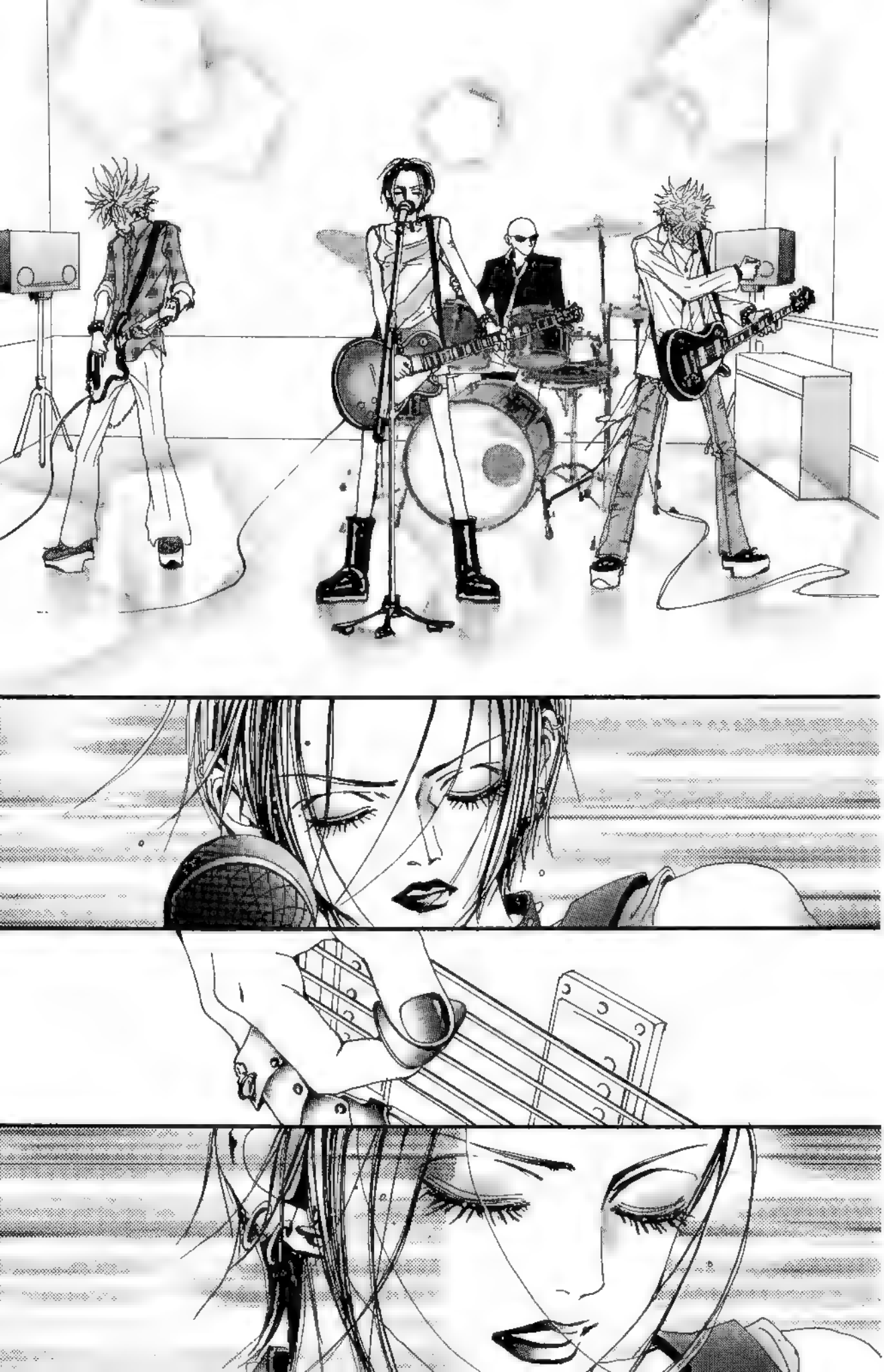
...WOULD GET REALLY LONELY AND MISS ME.

WIND UP
Nana Osaki?
Yeah ...
I remember her.
The rabbits.
Huh?
What about the rabbits?
Wait, don't record me.
Is this going to be on TV?
No.
This is for a magazine article.
I don't want to get involved.
Well, whatever.
Did Osaki do something?

When we were in fifth grade...
...One morning, all the rabbits in the rabbit cage were found brutally murdered.
Everyone thought Osaki did it.
She was morbid and looked like she'd do something like that.
Ms. Osaki was beautiful and really stood out in junior high.
But she was anti-social, so people assumed the worst about her.
Did other kids pick on her?
I don't really know...
But I heard she freaked out on a senior who harassed her, and she beat him up.

Now what'd she do?
Osaki? She's the one who got kicked out for hooking, right?
SSHH
click
Weekly SEARCH
SO, RESEARCHING HER TURNED OUT TO BE MORE LIKE COMBING THROUGH THE SORDID PAST OF A CRIMINAL.

Ah Ha Ha Ha
NANA OSAKI'S PERFECT!
THERE'S NO LACK OF DIRT ON THAT LADY!
WELL, I'M EXHAUSTED.
SO WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS? I'M A PHOTOGRAPHER.
'CAUSE WE'RE TOTALLY SHORT-STAFFED!
I KNOW THAT, BUT...
.....
SO CAN I GO HOME TODAY?
REN HONJO'S STILL HOLED UP IN THE STUDIO, RIGHT?
YEAH.
THEY'RE ONLY RECORDING TWO SONGS. WHY'S IT TAKING THEM TEN DAYS?
I WONDER IF THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING?
SIR!
IT LOOKS LIKE TRAPNEST FINISHED RECORDING.
THEY'RE ALL LEAVING THE STUDIO AND GOING HOME.
KURATA!
....
I'LL GET THE STORY READY— A HUGE SPREAD.
SO YOU BETTER GET SOME GOOD PHOTOS OF THOSE TWO TOGETHER! ♡



HOW DO YOU LIKE THE NEW SONG?
heh heh
sigh
.....
CRASH
YOU'RE SO COOL!
I LOVE IT!
IT'S GREAT!
AND WE GET TO SEE UP YOUR SKIRT!
I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE'S LOTS OF SOUL IN IT.
.....
AND WE WANT TO PICK OUR AGENCY SOON. ♡
THEN YOU SHOULD LET US START RECORDING NOW.

WE'RE STARTING TO GET THINGS TOGETHER FOR YOUR MAJOR LABEL DEBUT.
IS HE EVEN DOING HIS JOB?!
THAT OLD SLOTH!
SLAM
OLD SLOTH!
Ah Ha Ha
THAT'S TOTALLY HIM.
Hee hee
IT'S NOT FUNNY!
YOU'RE ALREADY DRUNK?!
YEAH, BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRYING ANY HARDER?
WHAT?
SHIN...
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY AMBI-TION?
GAIA DOESN'T WANT TO WASTE THEIR MONEY ON AN OLD-SCHOOL PUNK BAND LIKE US.

I'M REALLY REALLY SORRY!
IT'S MY FAULT THAT THERE'S BEEN NO PRO-GRESS.
WHO SAID THAT?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
NO, NO! IT'S NOT A PROBLEM WITH YOUR BAND.
IT'S OUR BAND'S LACK OF MASS APPEAL.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, MR. KAWANO.
SO THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THEM.
NEW BANDS NEED A BIG BUDGET FOR MARKETING, BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THEY'LL MAKE THE MONEY BACK.
BECAUSE OF THE BAD ECONOMY, THE COM-PANY'S VERY HESITANT TO TAKE ON NEW BANDS.

I GUESS THE SINGER REIRA HAS THE IMAGE TO RIDE THE DIVA BOOM.
BUT TRAPNEST SELLS ALMOST THREE MILLION COPIES OF THEIR ALBUMS.
WELL, ALL BANDS HAVE A HARD TIME SELLING THESE DAYS.
WHAT AM I WORTH IF I QUIT SINGING?
I'M NOT GIVING UP ON YOU GUYS YET, YASU.
BUT NANA IS DEFINITELY A FASCINATING SINGER IN HER OWN RIGHT.
WE SIGNED IT, TRUSTING YOU, SO WE'LL KEEP UP OUR END OF THE DEAL.
THE TEMPORARY CON-TRACT'S FOR THREE MONTHS, RIGHT?
THEN CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME MORE TIME?
WE WON'T BE GIVING UP SO EASILY EITHER.

BUT I DON'T WANT OUR BAND TO BE JUST A BUSINESS, WITHOUT ANY MEANING OR FEELING...
ESPECIALLY WHEN WE HAVE NANA AND SHIN, WHO BOTH GREW UP WITH NO LOVE IN THEIR LIVES.
WE'RE HAPPY TO HAVE SOME-ONE LIKE YOU WHO BELIEVES IN US.
WE'RE THE ONES WHO WANT TO THANK YOU.
RIGHT... THANK YOU.
WELL, UNFORTU-NATELY THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
I DON'T WANT THEM...
...TO THINK THAT THE WORLD ONLY REVOLVES AROUND MONEY AND GREED.

IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?
BUT AT THIS POINT, WE CAN PROBABLY ONLY INCREASE OUR OPPORTUNITIES BY COMING TO TERMS WITH THAT FACT...
YOU SEEM TO BE CARRYING A HEAVIER BURDEN THAN I AM, YASU.
LET ME CARRY HALF OF IT.
SO WE WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU, MR. KAWANO, WHO REALLY LOVES OUR BAND...
...TO BE THERE TO BACK US UP.

IF YOUR HANDS ARE FULL, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE WHEN YOU HAVE TO MAKE A MOVE.
DON'T TRY TO TAKE ON TOO MUCH.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

SSH
YOU'RE DRINKING MORE, NOBU?
YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT ELSE AM I GONNA DO?!
THE ECON-OMY SUCKS !
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN LAID OFF!
YOU NEED HACHI TO CHEER YOU UP.

I JUST HAVE TO WRITE SONGS THAT'LL BLOW THE GAIA GUYS AWAY.
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BLAME IT ON THE ECONOMY.
HEY, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH NOBU AND HACHI?
NO ONE'S TALKED ABOUT HACHI LATELY.
SHIN...
AAHH~
...
YOU DRUNK
GIMME THAT!
EVEN NOBU HAS A THING OR TWO HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT.
NEVER, EVER MENTION THAT NAME AGAIN.

NO REASON REALLY.
I'M GOING OUT.
GOOD THING YOU HAVE SO MANY OLD LADIES TO COMFORT YOU...
AND EVEN BUY YOU A GUI-TAR!
SO... WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY BUY AN ACOUSTIC GUITAR ?
...
slump
I BOUGHT IT MYSELF!
YEAH? AND WHERE'D YOU GET THAT MONEY?
SAME DIFF.
NANA!
DON'T BULLY THE YOUNG AND HELP-LESS.
YOU LOSE YOUR DRIVE 'CAUSE IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO GET WHAT YOU WANT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WHAT'S THE POINT OF TRYING ANY HARDER"?
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO FOOL AROUND WITH AN ACOUSTIC GUITAR, PRACTICE YOUR BASS.

HOW CAN YOU LECTURE ME LIKE THAT WHEN YOU, THE SINGER, CAN'T EVEN STOP SMOKING?
WHAT?!
NANA!
BY THE WAY, NANA, HOW'D YOU GET YOUR NEW GUITAR?
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN BUY THAT FROM JUST WORKING PART-TIME JOBS.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU PLAY GOOD ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY USING THAT KIND OF GUITAR.
.....
I GUESS HE ISN'T SO YOUNG AND HELPLESS.
I BORROWED IT FROM REN!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOUR OUTFITS?
THEY'RE ALL GIFTS FROM MISATO OR REN, RIGHT?

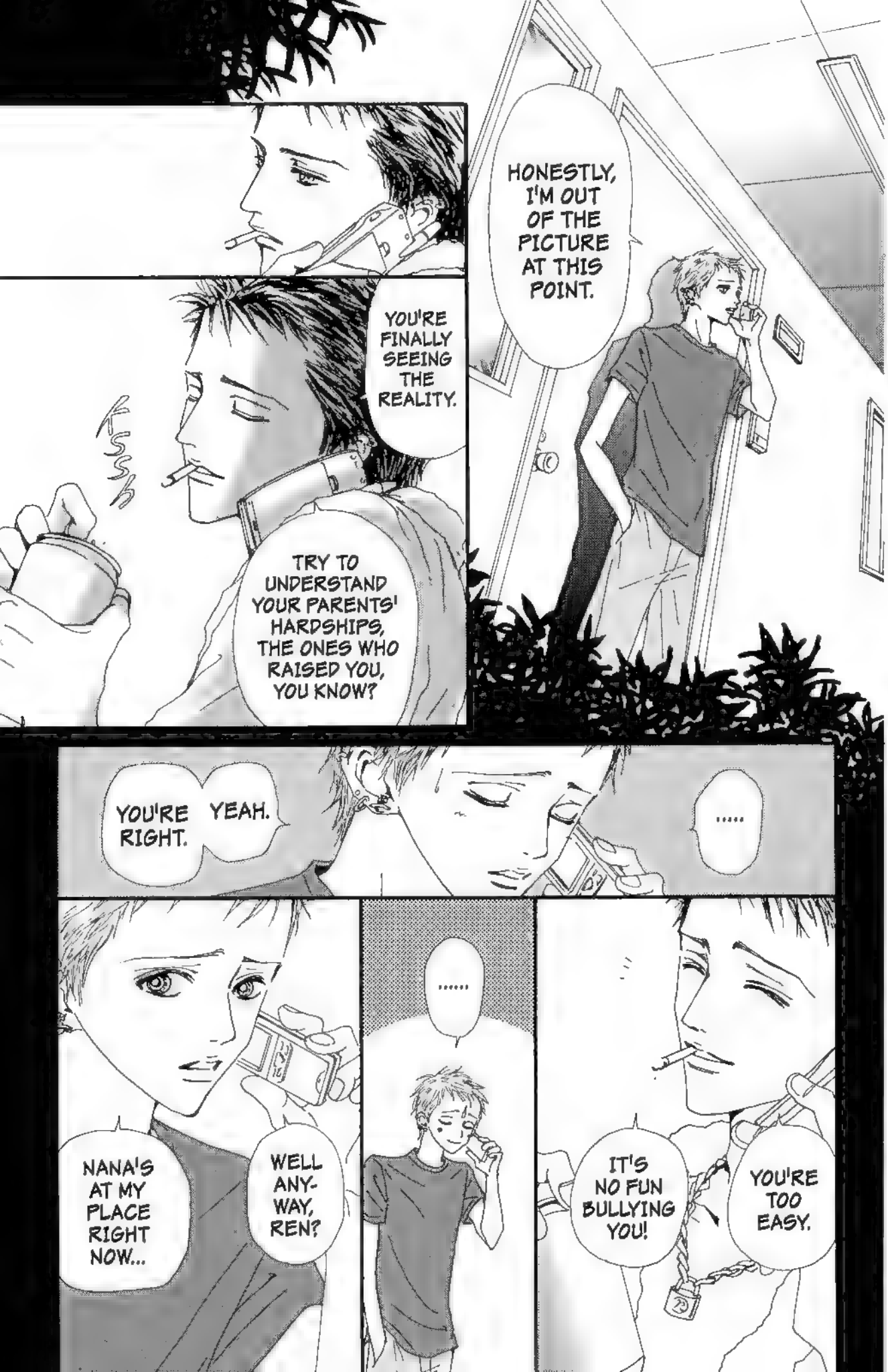
BUT YOU'RE JUST TAKING ADVANTAGE OF REN, NANA.
DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!
NANA!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
I'M STILL NOT A PROSTITUTE LIKE YOU!
WELL, I'M THE ONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE LIKE YOU.
I PROVIDE SERVICES TO EARN MY MONEY.
SHIN!

SLAM!
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT HIM.
HE'S JUST REBEL-LING.

IS IT SO BAD ?
BAM
WHY'RE YOU TAKING YOUR CLOTHES OFF?!
I CAN'T ACCEPT HIS KIND-NESS ?!
GOD-DAM-MIT ...
FLAP
SHIN JUST SAID ALL THAT TO PUSH YOUR BUTTONS AND JUSTIFY HIMSELF.
ALL RIGHT ?
DON'T LISTEN TO SHIN!
NO! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!

I ACTUALLY THINK YOU SHOULD DEPEND ON REN MORE.
DON'T BE SO STUBBORN AND DRIVE EVERYONE AWAY.
Ring♫
Ren
beep
HELLO ?

HELLO.
NOBU?
SORRY FOR CALLING SO LATE.
WERE YOU ASLEEP?
NO, NO...
I'M UP.
ARE YOU DOING OKAY?
YEAH!
NOBU, ARE YOU REALLY?
I'M SURE YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT HACHIKO, RIGHT?
YEAH ...
BUT ...
THERE'S ...
...JUST NOTHING I CAN DO ANY-MORE.


HONESTLY, I'M OUT OF THE PICTURE AT THIS POINT.
YOU'RE FINALLY SEEING THE REALITY.
Kssh
TRY TO UNDERSTAND YOUR PARENTS' HARDSHIPS, THE ONES WHO RAISED YOU, YOU KNOW?
.....
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
.....
IT'S NO FUN BULLYING YOU!
YOU'RE TOO EASY.
WELL ANY-WAY, REN?
NANA'S AT MY PLACE RIGHT NOW...

HUH?
REALLY?
MAYBE SHE FORGOT TO TURN HER PHONE BACK ON.
AFTER PRACTICE, THE THREE OF US SAT AROUND DRINKING TOGETHER ...
I WAS WORRIED, 'CAUSE I COULDN'T REACH HER ON HER CELL.
OH.
SHE'S OVER THERE?
AND SHE DIDN'T REPLY TO MY EMAILS EITHER.
NANA'S BEEN ACTING KIND OF WEIRD LATELY.
BUT REN...

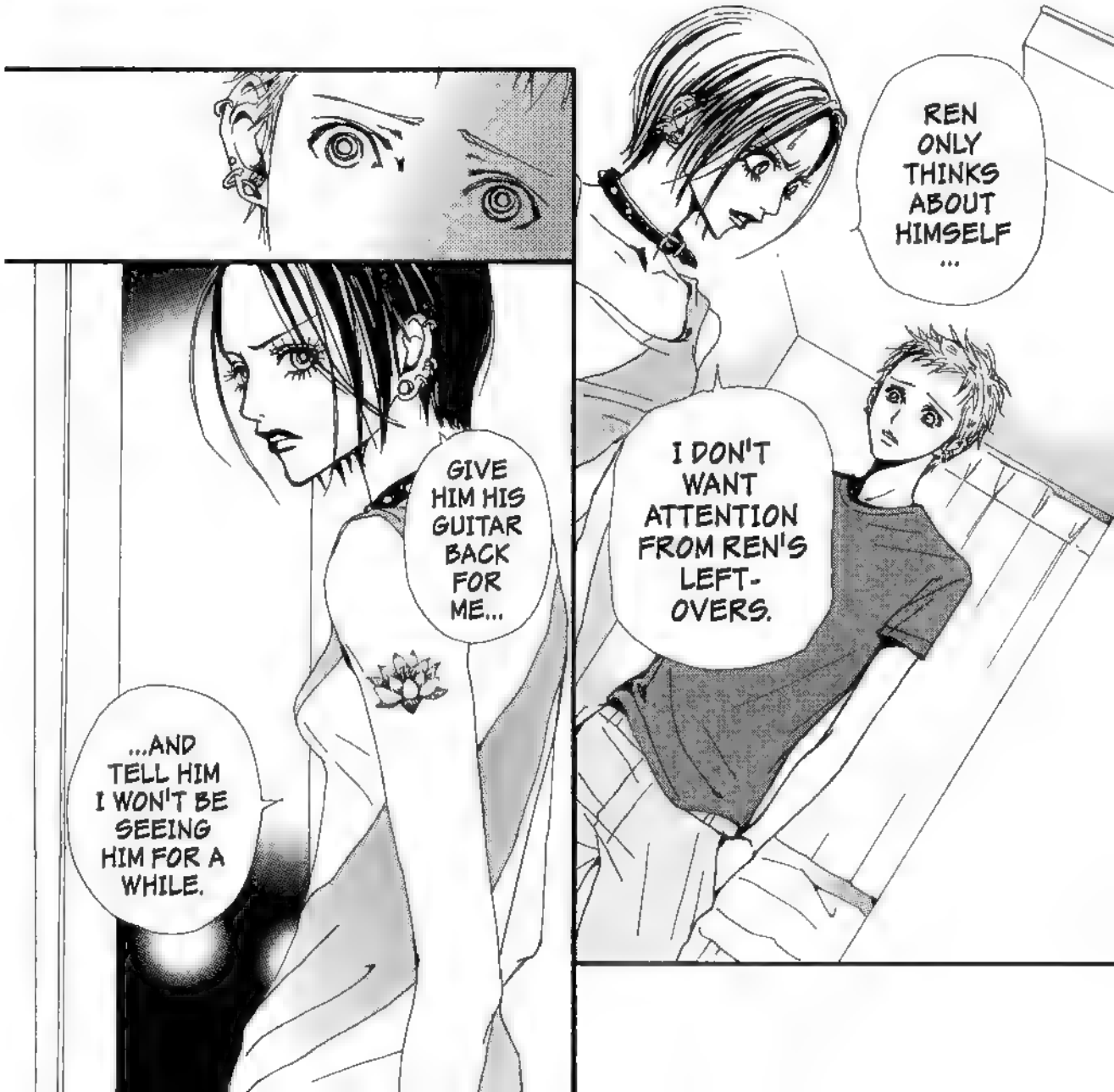
SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN KIND OF MOODY...
BUT HER MOOD SWINGS ARE MORE EXTREME NOW.
JUST NOW, SHE HAD A FIGHT WITH SHIN, GOT UPSET, AND STARTED TO CRY.
...SHE TOLD ME SOMETIMES SHE CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT SHE'S BEEN DOING ...
ALSO, SHE TOLD ME NOT TO TELL ANYONE, BUT...
YEAH, THAT'S KIND OF WEIRD.

NANA?
NANA...
AT LEAST PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON.
YOU SHOULD GET UP.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT US.
REN SAID HE'S COMING TO PICK YOU UP, 'CAUSE THEIR RECORDING'S FINISHED.
LEMME SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE.
IF YOU'RE A MAN, GET INTO BED.
SHUT UP...
HERE.
...
HE'LL BE HERE SOON.

I DON'T NEED HIM TO GET ME!
WHAT ?!
JUST PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES!
WHAT IF THE MOSQUI-TOES FOLLOW HIM?!
IT'S TOO DAN-GER-OUS!
MOSQUI-TOES?
THE PAPA-RAZZI'S STALKING THOSE GUYS!
EVEN NAOKI KNOWS ABOUT IT, SO IT'S GOTTA BE BAD.
BUT ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
REN WOULDN'T COME IF HE THOUGHT IT WAS TOO RISKY.

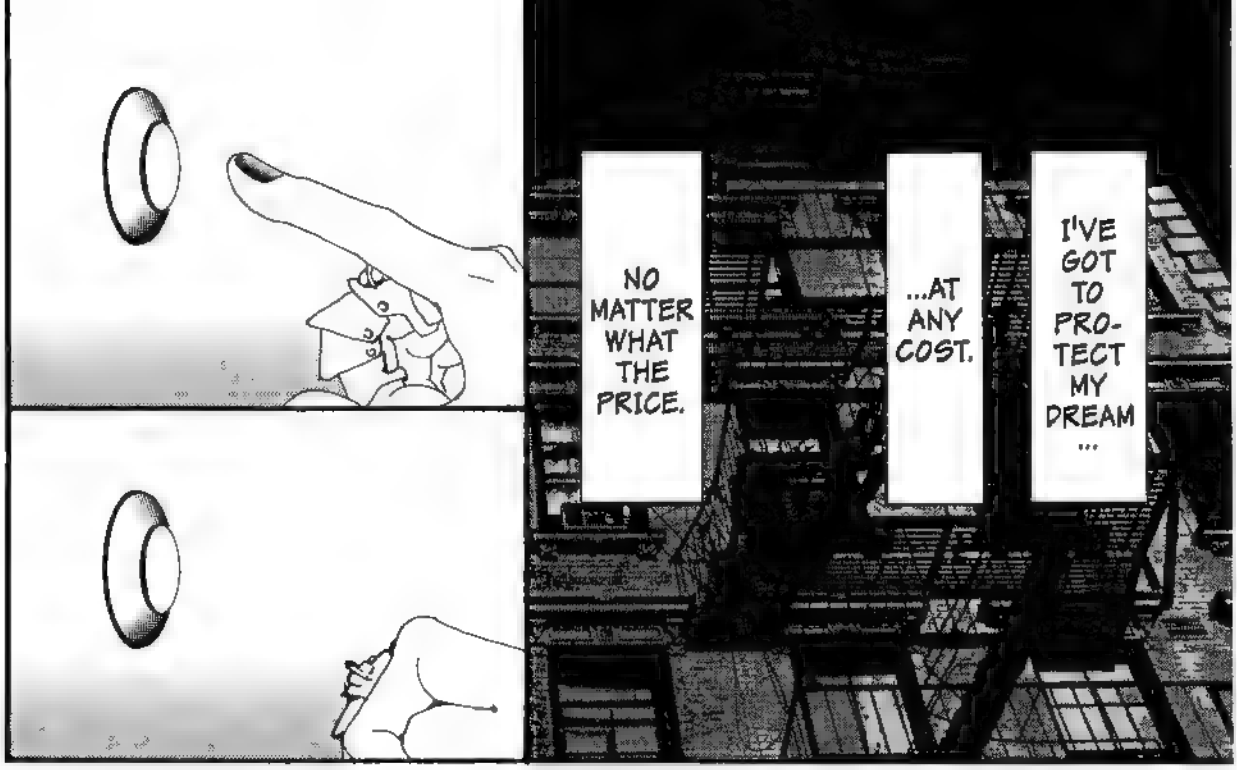
HE NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT BEING TARGETED, AND HE KEEPS CALLING ME TO COME OVER!
FOR REN, SCANDAL ONLY INCREASES HIS REPUTATION!

OF COURSE REN WOULDN'T HEAR IT, SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.


REN ONLY THINKS ABOUT HIMSELF ...
I DON'T WANT ATTENTION FROM REN'S LEFT-OVERS.
GIVE HIM HIS GUITAR BACK FOR ME...
...AND TELL HIM I WON'T BE SEEING HIM FOR A WHILE.

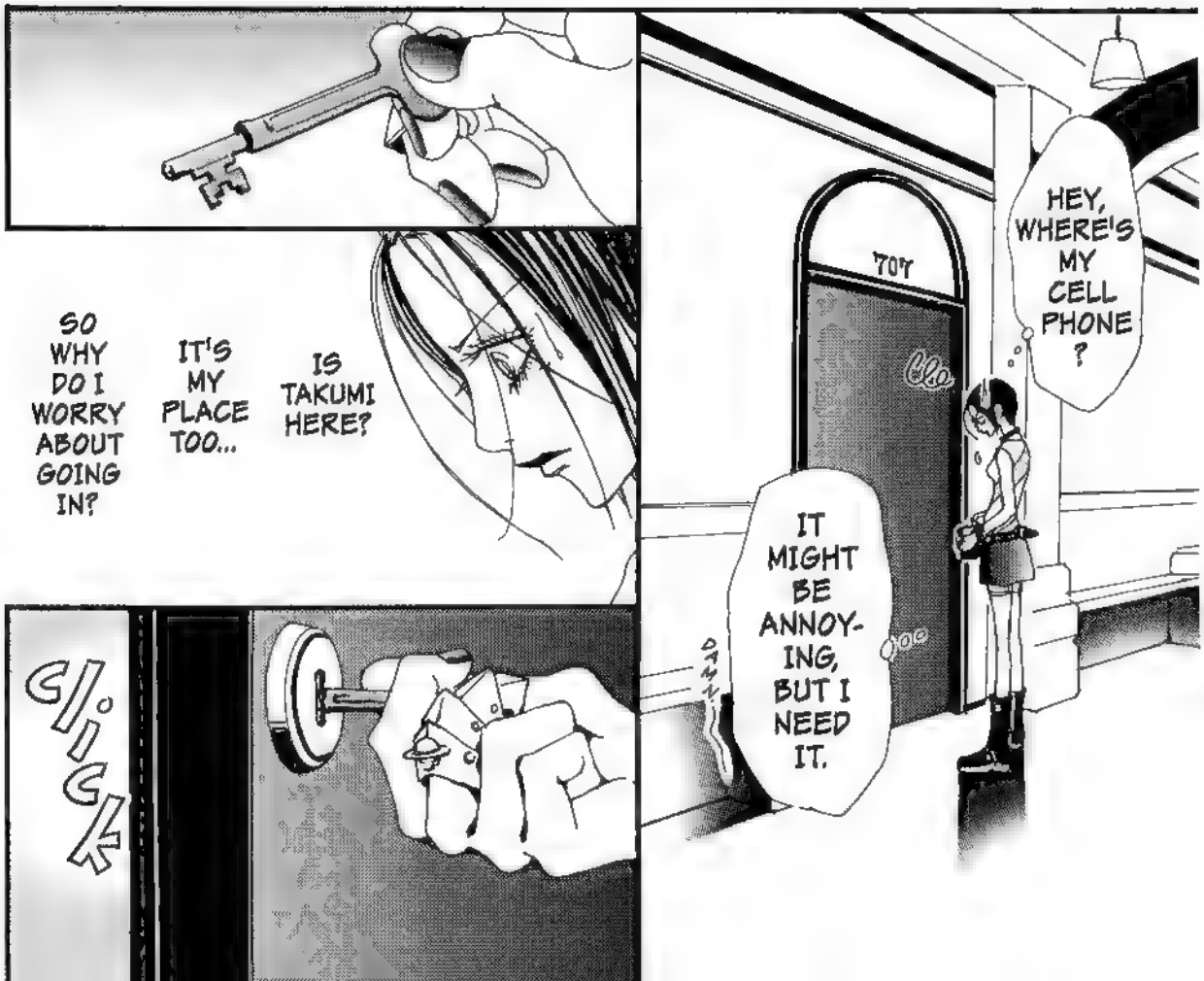
NANA, IS YOUR PRIDE THAT IMPOR-TANT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ONLY THINKING ABOUT YOUR-SELF.
YOU AND REN NEED EACH OTHER.

EVEN WHEN I'M WITH REN, I FEEL LIKE THAT...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE LOVE EACH OTHER.
...I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN FULFILL ME.
LIKE THE MOON THAT'S NOT QUITE FULL...
BUT WHEN I'M ON STAGE, I FEEL COMPLETE.

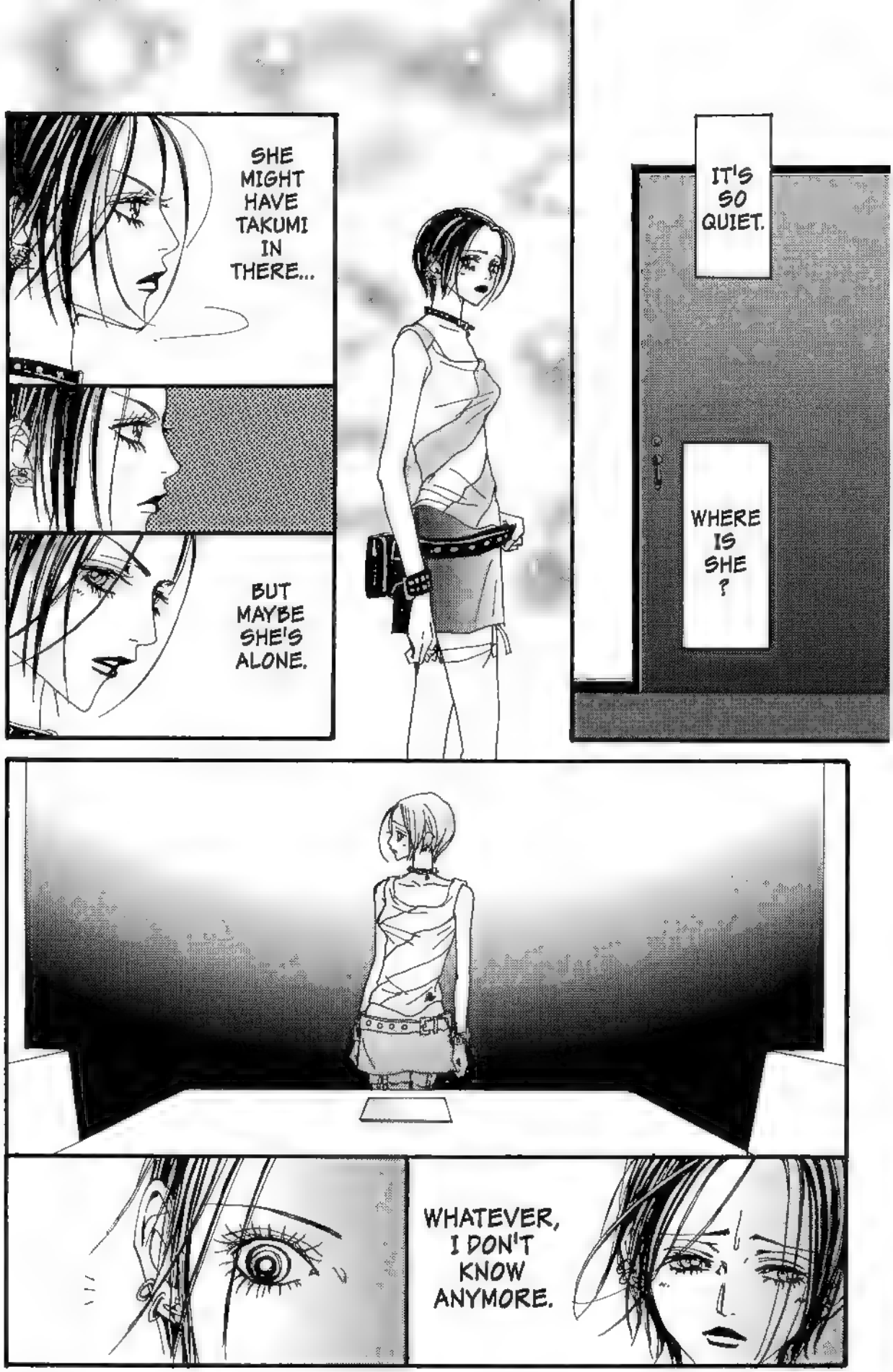


WHAT TIME IS IT?

IS HACHI ASLEEP?


HEY, WHERE'S MY CELL PHONE ?
IT MIGHT BE ANNOY-ING, BUT I NEED IT.
SO WHY DO I WORRY ABOUT GOING IN?
IT'S MY PLACE TOO...
IS TAKUMI HERE?
CLICK

CREAK


SHE MIGHT HAVE TAKUMI IN THERE...
BUT MAYBE SHE'S ALONE.
IT'S SO QUIET.
WHERE IS SHE?
WHATEVER, I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE.

NANA
NANA
GULP
WHAT'S SHE THINK-ING?
WHAT'S THIS?

KNOCK KNOCK
HACHI?
Creak
PUSH
HACHI, ARE YOU HOME?

HEY, HACHI...

BACK THEN, WHEN YOU KEPT LOSING YOURSELF IN LOVE...

...MAYBE WE WEREN'T SO DIFFERENT...

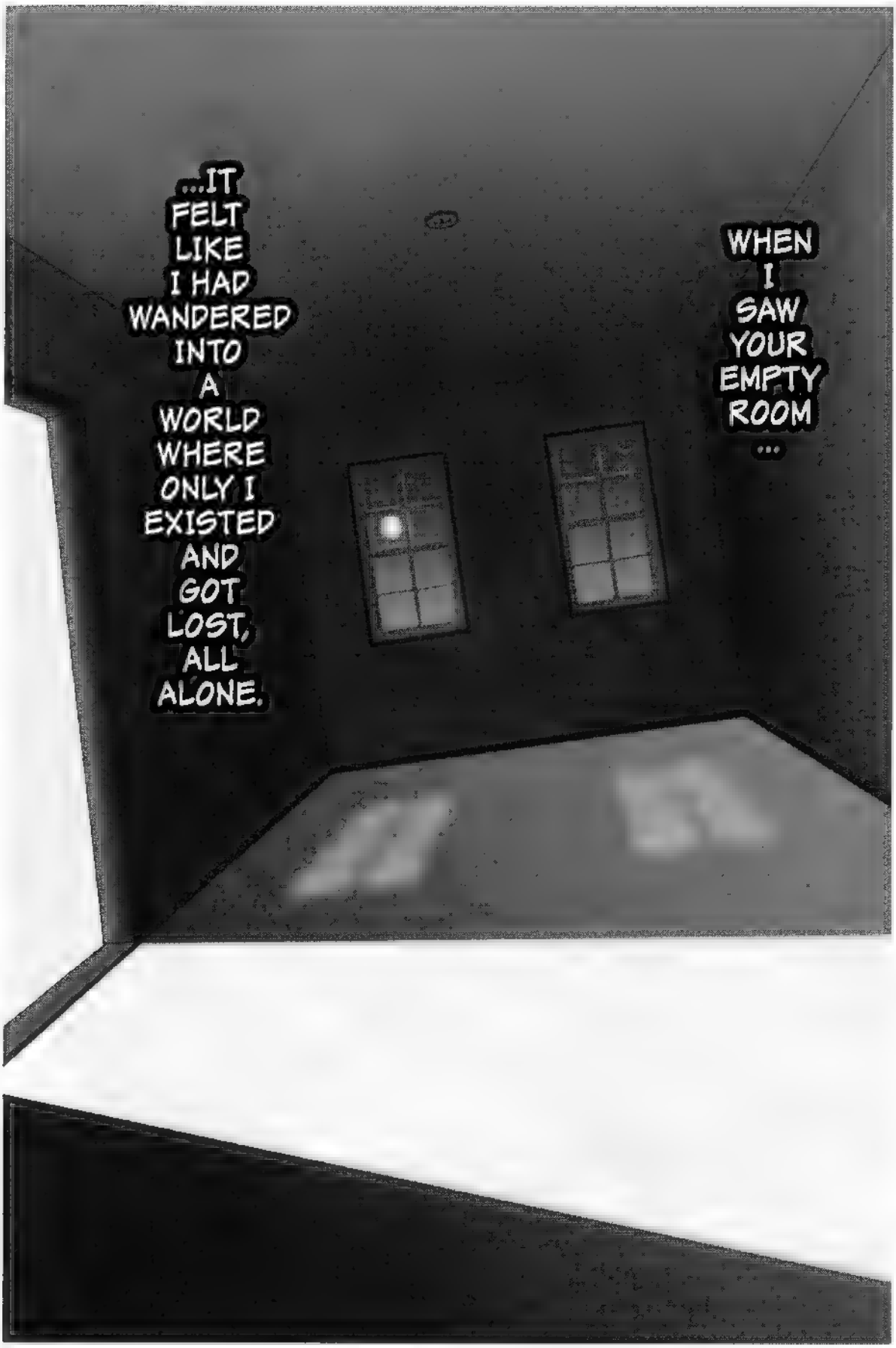
...STRUGGLING WITH DESIRES THAT COULDN'T BE FULFILLED.

IF THAT WAS THE CASE, NOW I CAN UNDERSTAND SOME OF YOUR FEELINGS THAT I JUST COULDN'T BACK THEN.

YUKIHIRO

SO YOUR NEW LIFE THAT YOU PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS...

...STILL FULFILLING YOU NOW?


...IT FELT LIKE I HAD WANDERED INTO A WORLD WHERE ONLY I EXISTED AND GOT LOST, ALL ALONE.
WHEN I SAW YOUR EMPTY ROOM ...

ナナ

[Chapter 32]

JACKSON HOLE
WHAT ?
SHE MOVED ?
NANA KOMA-TSU.
WHO MOVED ?
SHE MOVED TO SHIRO-GANE.
WHAT ?
WAIT, WHAT THE HELL?
I'LL REALLY MISS HER!
SHE SAID NOW SHE'S LIVING KIND OF FAR AWAY AND WON'T BE ABLE TO COME IN TOO OFTEN, BUT TO SAY HI TO EVERYONE AT JACKSON.
YEAH.

BUT I KNEW NANA WOULD CHOOSE SHIROGANE FROM THE START. ♡
THEY'RE ALL VERY NICE PLACES TO LIVE.
AZABU.
HIRO.
MINAMI-AOYAMA.
WHY SHIRO-GANE ALL OF A SUD-DEN?
THEY'RE ALL EXPENSIVE, TOO!
YOUNG NEWLY-WEDS?
HEH
'CAUSE THAT'S WHERE YOUNG NEWLYWEDS WANT TO LIVE.
AND WHY'S THAT?
...AND SHE WANTS TO BE SHIRO-GANESE*.
YEAH, SHE'S GETTING MARRIED ...
*Media term for rich women in Shirogane.

WHAT THE HELL ?!
I'M ACTUALLY KIND OF RELIEVED.
I WANT TO SEE HER IN THAT WEDDING DRESS!
BUT EVEN IF IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF THE BABY...
SHE'S FINALLY SETTLING DOWN.
...HOW CAN SHE MARRY A MAN SHE DOESN'T EVEN LIKE?
'CAUSE HE'S RICH!
SHE WOULDN'T GET MARRIED IF SHE DIDN'T LOVE HIM.
C'MON ...
BUT WHAT ABOUT NOBU?!
BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDER-STAND...
I'M SURE SHE LIKED BOTH OF THEM.
.....
HONEY I'M HOME!

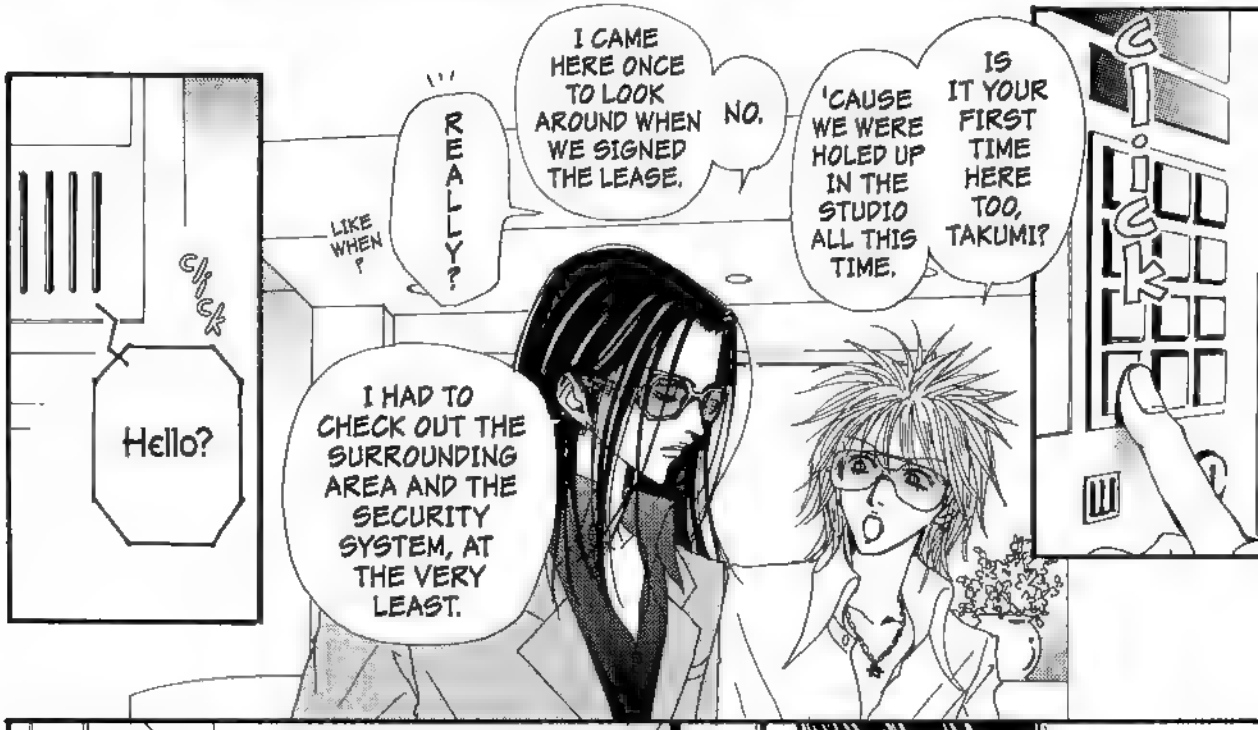
HERE'S TO NANA MARRYING SOME RICH GUY!
SO YOU HEARD?
I DOUBT SHE WANTS YOUR CONGRATS, THOUGH.
SO WHAT KIND OF RICH GUY CAN PAY A MILLION YEN A MONTH IN RENT?
THAT'S INSANE.
IT'S ACTUALLY ¥700,000.
SHE CONVINCED HIM THAT IF HE HAS THAT MUCH MONEY, HE SHOULD SAVE UP FOR THE BABY.
NANA IS GRADUALLY GROWING UP.
OH— YOU'RE HERE, SHOJI?
DID YOU CUT YOUR HAIR?
WHAT? YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO DRINK AT JACKSON ANYMORE?
WHAT DOES THIS GUY DO?!
¥700,000 IS STILL A LOT OF MONEY!
DOES HAVING A BABY MAKE YOU A GROWN-UP?

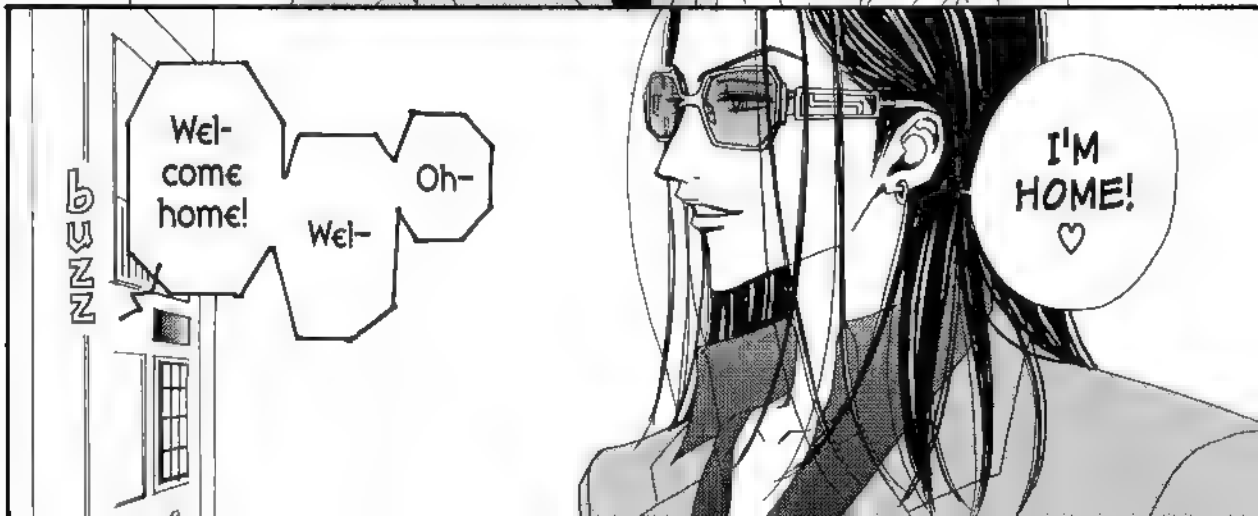
HE'S A MUSICIAN.
clink
OH NO, ANOTHER ONE OF THE GURU'S PALS...
WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING?
WELL, KIND OF..
HE'S FRIENDS WITH YASU.
IF HE'S FRIENDS WITH YASU, THEN HE SHOULD BE OKAY.
YASU'S A GOOD MAN...
BUT IF HE'S GOT THAT MUCH MONEY, HE HAS TO BE BIG-TIME. NOT LIKE BLAST, RIGHT?
IS THIS GUY FAMOUS?
I DOUBT IT. YOU HAVE TO BE A SERIOUS CELEBRITY TO MAKE THAT MUCH MONEY OFF MUSIC.
I BET HE'S THE SLACKER KID OF SOME RICH GUY.
WHY WOULD SOME CELEBRITY MARRY SOMEONE LIKE NANA, ANYWAY?
AND YOU BETTER BELIEVE THAT EVEN IF HE WAS JUST SLIGHTLY FAMOUS, NANA WOULD LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW!
WE'D NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.

JUST MARRY ME!
EEEK! TAKUMI'S SO HOT!
SHE'S INTO THAT KIND OF GUY?!
I DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
BUT MAYBE SHE'S HIDING OUT BECAUSE HE'S FAMOUS!
WHAT?
YOU WATCH TOO MUCH TV!
TAKUMI.
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
SPLAT
From Trap-Nest?!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
THERE'S NO WAY!

WHY ARE YOU FOLLOW-ING ME?
C'MON, MAN, I WON'T STAY LONG.
JUST LEMME SEE MACHIKO ONCE!
WELL, GOOD NIGHT, GUYS.
I'LL COME PICK YOU UP AT NOON.
SIGH
YEAH, YEAH.
GOOD EVEN-ING!

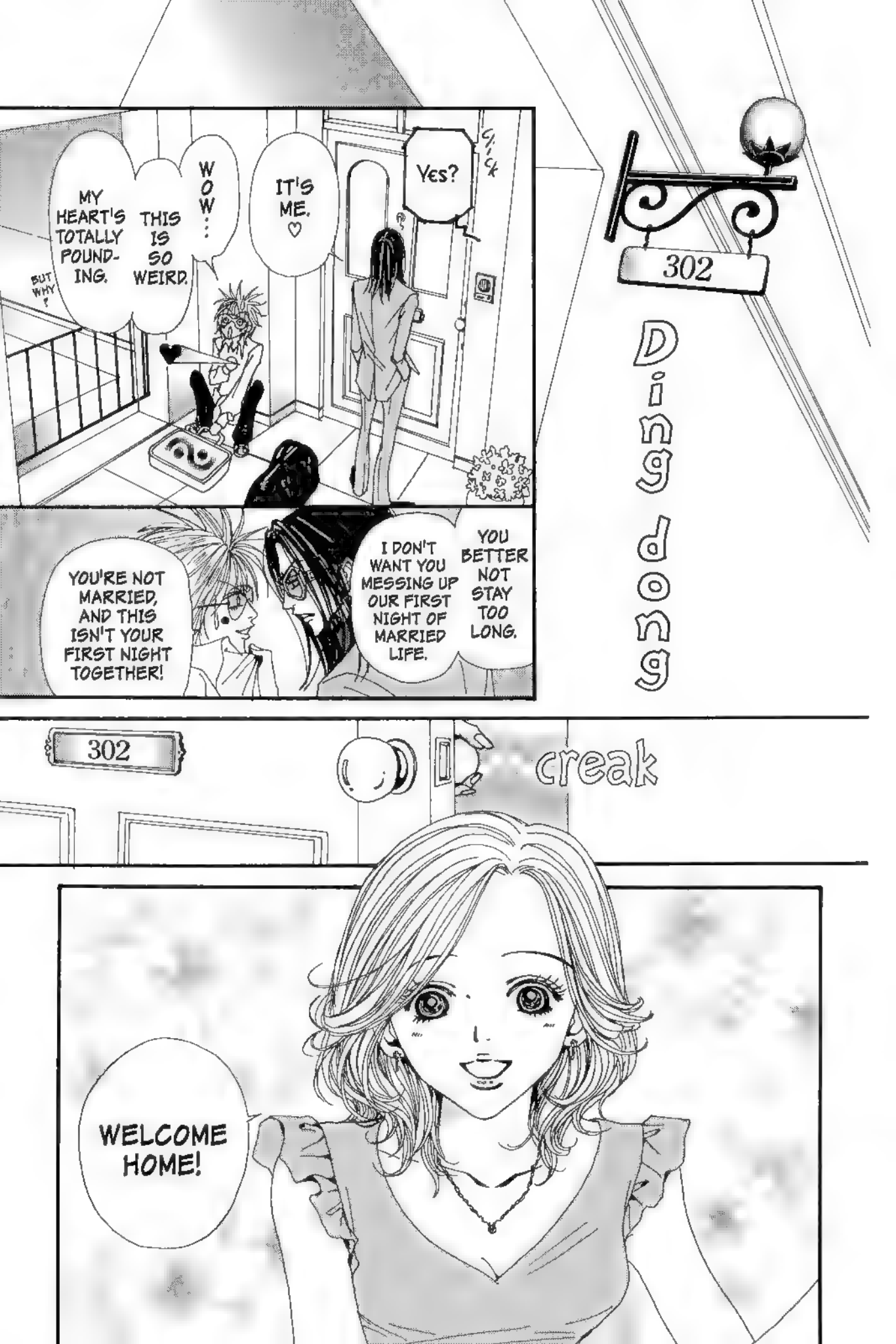
FANCY DIGS! ♡
IS IT NEW?
SINCE IT'S SUCH A BIG COMPLEX, IS IT AFFORDABLE?
YEAH, BUT IT'S A WALK FROM THE TRAIN STATION.
beep beep beep
COOL! ♡
IT'S LIKE A HOTEL.
AS IF YOU'D USE THE TRAIN.


IS IT YOUR FIRST TIME HERE TOO, TAKUMI?
'CAUSE WE WERE HOLED UP IN THE STUDIO ALL THIS TIME.
NO.
I CAME HERE ONCE TO LOOK AROUND WHEN WE SIGNED THE LEASE.
REALLY?
LIKE WHEN?
I HAD TO CHECK OUT THE SURROUNDING AREA AND THE SECURITY SYSTEM, AT THE VERY LEAST.
click
Hello?


I'M HOME! ♡
Oh-
Wel-
Wel-come home!
buzz

YOU STILL HAVE THE APARTMENT IN AKASAKA, RIGHT?
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GET MARRIED?
BUT YOU'RE NOT OFFICIALLY MARRIED YET.
ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO LIVE APART?
....
I'LL GET RID OF IT EVENTUALLY.
SHUT UP.
EVENTUALLY?
SHE'S STUTTERING!
heh
TOO CUTE.
creak
YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN, TAKUMI.
WE'RE NEWLYWEDS! ♡
Di 3 ng
beep
slide
JUST IN CASE.
I'M NOT HOME MUCH, SO IT'S FOR THE SAFETY OF MY WIFE AND BABY.
WHO KNOWS WHAT CREEPS ARE LURKING OUT THERE.
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE A REAL CELEBRITY!
TIGHT SECURITY!
EACH FLOOR EVEN HAS LOCKED DOORS!
jangle

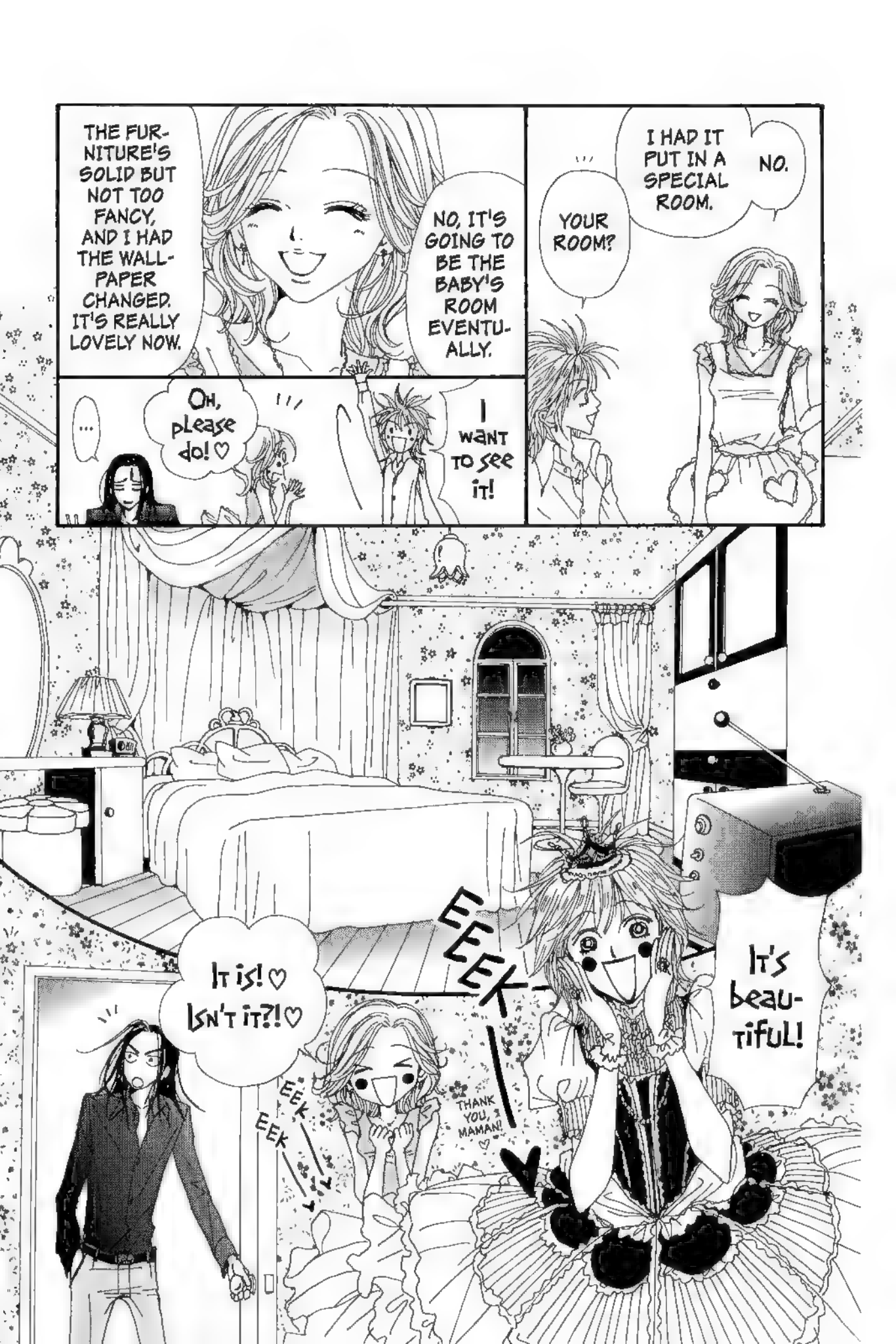
IN REAL LIFE, NO ONE'S AS PERFECT AS YOU WANT THEM TO BE.
BE-CAUSE THEY ARE ILLU-SIONS.
I REALLY DON'T GET IT.
WHY DO PEOPLE BUILD UP AND OBSESS OVER SUCH ILLU-SIONS?
THE ONES WHO LET THEIR FANTASIES EXPLODE!
YOU GOT SOME DANGER-OUS FANS, TAKUMI.
REN MAY HAVE MORE, BUT YOU HAVE THE REAL WEIRDOS.
IN HER OWN WAY, NANA UNDER-STANDS THAT REALITY AND IDEALS ARE DIFFERENT.
THAT'S WHAT I DON'T GET.
TAKUMI, ARE YOU MARRYING SOMEONE YOU DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND?
....
I'M GOING TO PUNCH YOU.
DOES THAT MEAN I'M LOVABLE TOO? AW, TAKUMI! ♡
THEN HACHIKO'S JUST LIKE ME!
...BUT SHE GETS IT, SHE'S NOT MESSED UP, AND SHE'S DREAMY. THAT'S WHY SHE'S LOVABLE.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE LEARNED THAT...


302
Ding dong
Yes?
IT'S ME. ♡
WOW...
THIS IS SO WEIRD.
MY HEART'S TOTALLY POUNDING.
BUT WHY?
YOU BETTER NOT STAY TOO LONG.
I DON'T WANT YOU MESSING UP OUR FIRST NIGHT OF MARRIED LIFE.
YOU'RE NOT MARRIED, AND THIS ISN'T YOUR FIRST NIGHT TOGETHER!
302
creak
WELCOME HOME!

WELL, HELLO ...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED, NOW GET MOVING.
SHE'S DIFFERENT THAN I EXPECTED! SHE'S TOTALLY MY TYPE!
Hachi-ko's so cute!
NAOKI...
IN THE FLESH!
HELLO ...
UM ... H—
EEEEk!
It's like a castle!
WOO HOO!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE FINISHED RECORDING.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY FOR DINNER WITH US?
SURE! ♡
NO, HE HAS TO BE SOMEWHERE.
....
I'LL GET IT TOGETHER NOW.
I WENT OVERBOARD AND MADE TOO MUCH FOOD.
SO IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU HELPED US EAT SOME OF IT.
NO PROBLEM... ♡
SWOO
SNAP
Morning sickness.

IT'S AMAZ-ING! ♡
KELP BROTH?
YOU LIKE IT?
THANKS!
Phew
THE RUMOR'S TRUE, SHE'S A GREAT COOK!
OF COURSE YOU WANT TO MARRY HER!
WHAT-EVER, THAT'S NOT WHY I'M MARRYING HER.
OTHER-WISE I'D JUST HIRE A COOK AND A HOUSE-KEEPER.
BUT THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE A HOME-COOKED MEAL THAT'S THIS ELABORATE.
AND EVEN JUST THE FURNISHING AND DECORATION MUST'VE BEEN HARD TO PULL OFF THIS SOON.
OH, NO...
I HAD IT DONE BY A PROFESSIONAL INTERIOR DECORATOR BEFORE WE MOVED IN.
BUT IT WAS HARD TO CONVEY MY IDEAS TO THEM, SO IT TURNED OUT PRETTY FANCY.
I'D WANTED IT TO BE MORE "SHABBY CHIC"...
AH.
I SEE.
YOU CAN CHANGE THINGS GRADUALLY TO WHAT YOU WANT.
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FURNITURE FROM YOUR OLD APART-MENT?
DID YOU GET RID OF IT?

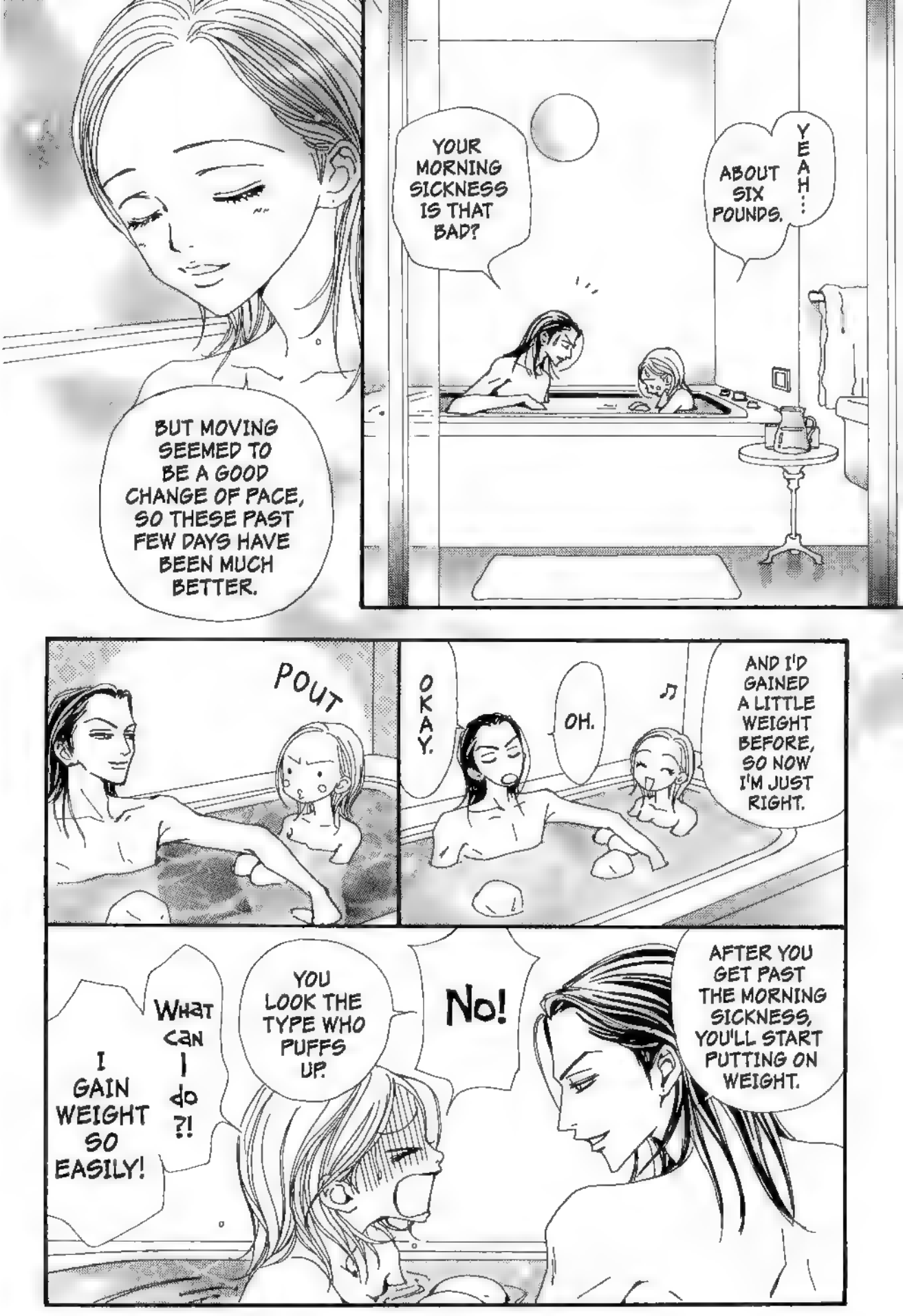

THE FURNITURE'S SOLID BUT NOT TOO FANCY, AND I HAD THE WALLPAPER CHANGED. IT'S REALLY LOVELY NOW.
NO, IT'S GOING TO BE THE BABY'S ROOM EVENTUALLY.
NO.
I HAD IT PUT IN A SPECIAL ROOM.
YOUR ROOM?
I WANT TO SEE IT!
OH, PLEASE DO!♡
...
EEEK—
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
IT IS!♡ ISN'T IT?!♡
EEK
EEK
THANK YOU, MAMAN!♡

IT'S PRIN-CESS-Y.
IT'S NICE!
IT'S COOL!
FLORAL PRINT?!
SO THEN WHAT IF THE BABY'S A BOY ?!
I DON'T KNOW ...
I GUESS I JUST ASSUMED IT'D BE A GIRL.
I WON-DER WHY ?
Ah Ha Ha
THEN YOU'RE PROB-ABLY RIGHT!
NO PROB-LEM, MAMAN!
WHAT MADE YOU SO SURE ABOUT THAT?

WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE HEADING HOME.
HE'S ■ HAPPY.
OH WELL, SORRY ABOUT THAT...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
WE CAN CHANGE THE WALLPAPER IF WE WANT.
...
STRETCH
IF YOU ASK AT THE FRONT DESK, THEY'LL CALL A CAB FOR YOU.
ALL RIGHT. THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER.
THANKS FOR AN AMAZING DINNER, NANA.
YOU'RE WEL-COME! ANY-TIME!

...
OH NO!
WINK
NEXT TIME I'LL COME OVER WHEN TAKUMI'S NOT AROUND.
I LIKE THIS COUCH.
IT'S BIG.
CAN YOU DRAW ME A BATH?
I'M JUST REALLY TIRED.
REALLY?
I'M HAPPY TO GET ALONG WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
HA HA
I NEVER KNEW HE WAS SO FUNNY!
NAOKI'S A FUN GUY.
HOME IS FOR RELAX-ING.
LET'S JUST TAKE A BATH TOGETHER AND RELAX.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO BE THE PERFECT WIFE.
ACTU-ALLY, THAT WOULD MAKE ME NER-VOUS.
.....
ALREADY DONE!
YEAH!
Whip
towel

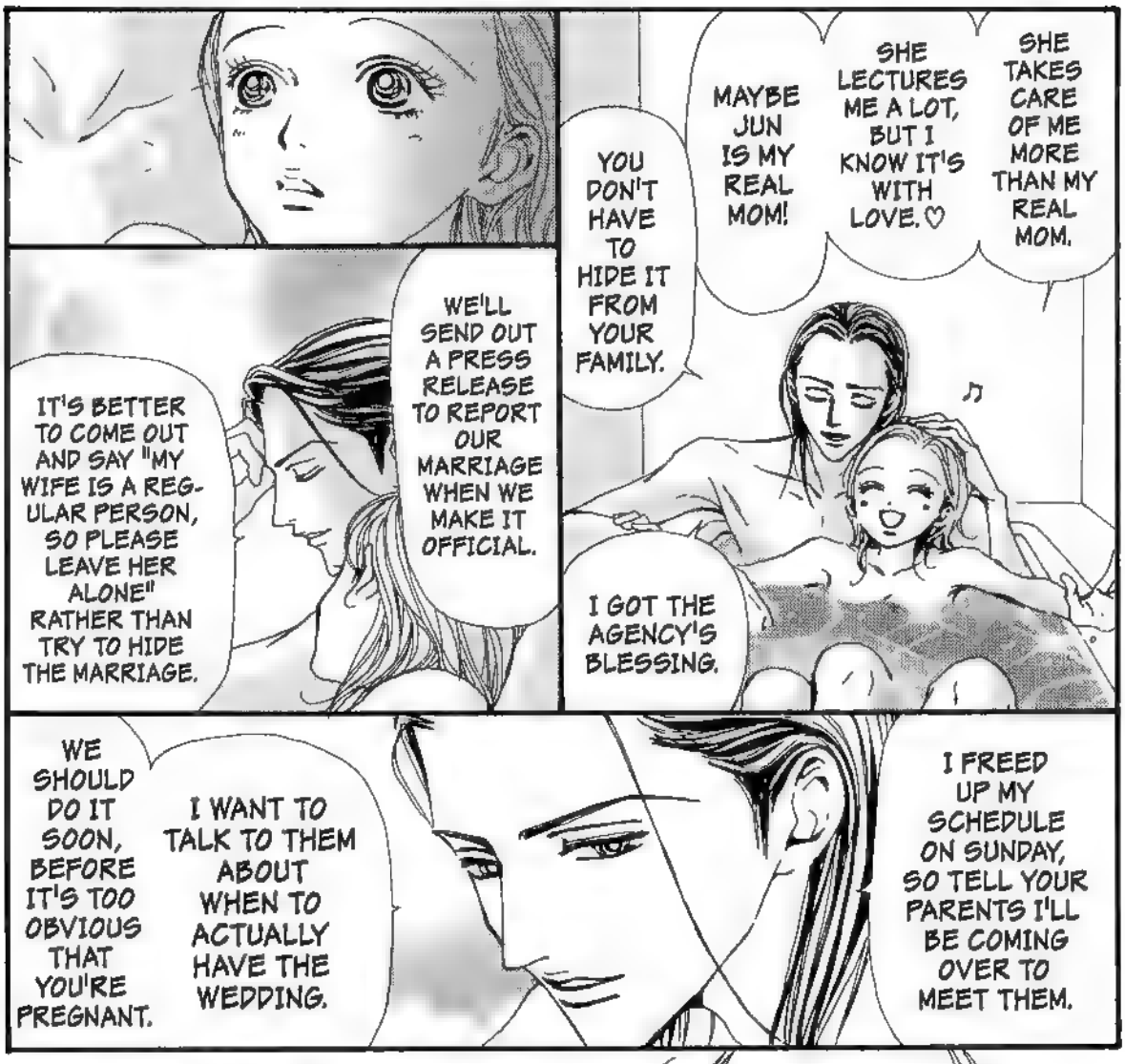
DID YOU LOSE WEIGHT?


BUT MOVING SEEMED TO BE A GOOD CHANGE OF PACE, SO THESE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER.
YOUR MORNING SICKNESS IS THAT BAD?
ABOUT SIX POUNDS.
YEAH...
POUT
OKAY.
OH.
♫
AND I'D GAINED A LITTLE WEIGHT BEFORE, SO NOW I'M JUST RIGHT.
I GAIN WEIGHT SO EASILY!
What can I do?!
YOU LOOK THE TYPE WHO PUFFS UP.
No!
AFTER YOU GET PAST THE MORNING SICKNESS, YOU'LL START PUTTING ON WEIGHT.

HOW MANY SIBLINGS DO YOU HAVE?
THERE ARE THREE OF US.
ALL GIRLS?
YEAH! ♡
WOW...
THAT'S KIND OF SCARY.
MY MOM AND MY BIG SISTER ARE BOTH KIND OF CHUBBY ...
AND MY LITTLE SISTER TRIES REALLY HARD TO STAY THIN.
HER NAME'S EVEN NAMI ...#
#This is a word play on the previous line. The "tries really hard" is "nami nami naranu doryoku" in Japanese.
SILLY.
HEH HEH
MY BIG SISTER'S VERY GENEROUS, LIKE A BUDDHA.
DID YOU TELL YOUR PARENTS YET?
YEAH... ON THE PHONE...
I TOLD MY MOM.
HOW MUCH DID YOU TELL HER?
THAT I'M PREG-NANT...
SO I MIGHT ...
...GET MARRIED.

WELL, WHATEVER.
SO WHAT DID MAMA SAY?
.....
MAMA?
splash
splash
MAMA SAID ...
N O !
SPLASH
BECAUSE ...
ARE YOU THAT SCARED OF ME?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "MIGHT" ?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS UP TO SOMETHING!
WOW! WELL, CONGRATULATIONS!
....
YUP. ♡
BUT I BET DADDY'S JUST FURIOUS, RIGHT?
SHE'S JUST LIKE THAT.
HIS LIL' GIRL DOING LORD-KNOWS-WHAT WITH SOME RANDOM DUDE!
NOT REALLY.
Ah Ha Ha
WHAT KIND OF MOM IS SHE?!

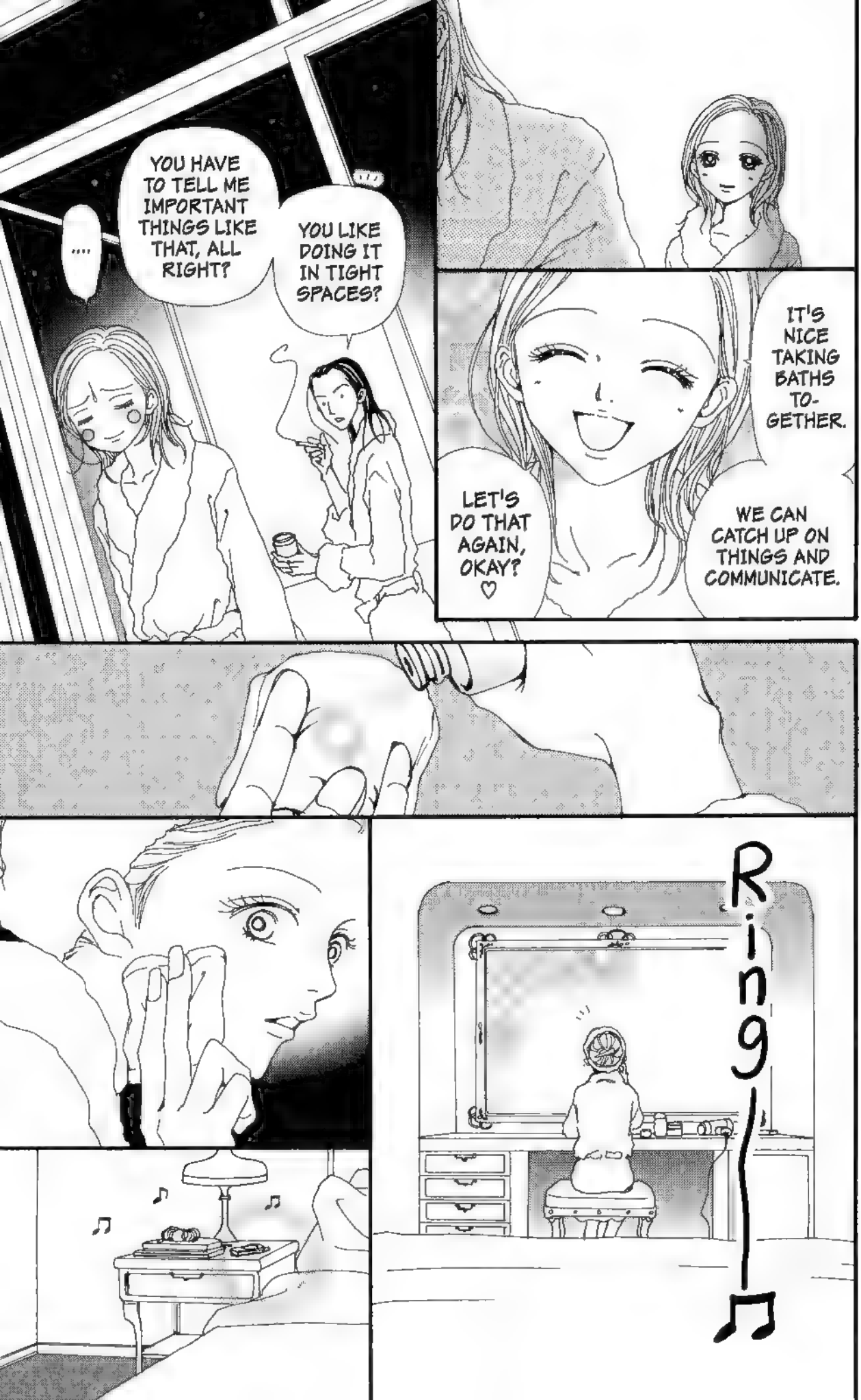
AND HE ASKED "WHAT KIND OF MAN IS THIS GUY?" SO I TOLD HIM, "HE'S IN THE MUSIC BUSINESS," AND HE GOES...
HE WAS MORE SHOCKED THAN MAD, AND HE CALLED ME NAMES LIKE "MY STUPID DAUGHTER" ...
HE CALLED ME RIGHT AWAY.
THEN I CAN SING AS MUCH AS I WANT!
DOES HE OWN A KARAOKE BAR?
HA HA!
I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED JUST FOR MY DAD TO GET FREE KARAOKE!
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD JUN YET!
IF THEY FOUND OUT THAT YOU'RE TAKUMI FROM TRAPNEST, MY LIL' SISTER WOULD FREAK OUT AND TELL ALL HER FRIENDS!
WHO'S JUN?
AVOIDED WHAT ISSUE?
SO I JUST AVOIDED THE WHOLE ISSUE BY SAYING "NO, HE MAKES MUSIC."


SHE TAKES CARE OF ME MORE THAN MY REAL MOM.
SHE LECTURES ME A LOT, BUT I KNOW IT'S WITH LOVE.♡
MAYBE JUN IS MY REAL MOM!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT FROM YOUR FAMILY.
I GOT THE AGENCY'S BLESSING.
WE'LL SEND OUT A PRESS RELEASE TO REPORT OUR MARRIAGE WHEN WE MAKE IT OFFICIAL.
IT'S BETTER TO COME OUT AND SAY "MY WIFE IS A REGULAR PERSON, SO PLEASE LEAVE HER ALONE" RATHER THAN TRY TO HIDE THE MARRIAGE.
I FREED UP MY SCHEDULE ON SUNDAY, SO TELL YOUR PARENTS I'LL BE COMING OVER TO MEET THEM.
I WANT TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT WHEN TO ACTUALLY HAVE THE WEDDING.
WE SHOULD DO IT SOON, BEFORE IT'S TOO OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT.

F Naoki
S Reporting ♡

I got the lowdown on Takumi & Hachiko's new pad!
Hachiko's so cute and sweet, Takumi's surprisingly nice to her, so I think it's all good.
Nothing to worry about.
(^o^)/ Good night! ♡
PLOP
YOU INSEN-SITIVE IDIOT!
DON'T WAKE ME UP!

I DON'T WANT THE PRINCESS IN YOUR TUMMY TO HATE ME.
I'M JUST HAVING ONE.
IT'S COOL.
WHY DON'T YOU SMOKE INSIDE?
YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD.


....
YOU HAVE TO TELL ME IMPORTANT THINGS LIKE THAT, ALL RIGHT?
YOU LIKE DOING IT IN TIGHT SPACES?
IT'S NICE TAKING BATHS TO-GETHER.
WE CAN CATCH UP ON THINGS AND COMMUNICATE.
LET'S DO THAT AGAIN, OKAY? ♡
Ring~♫

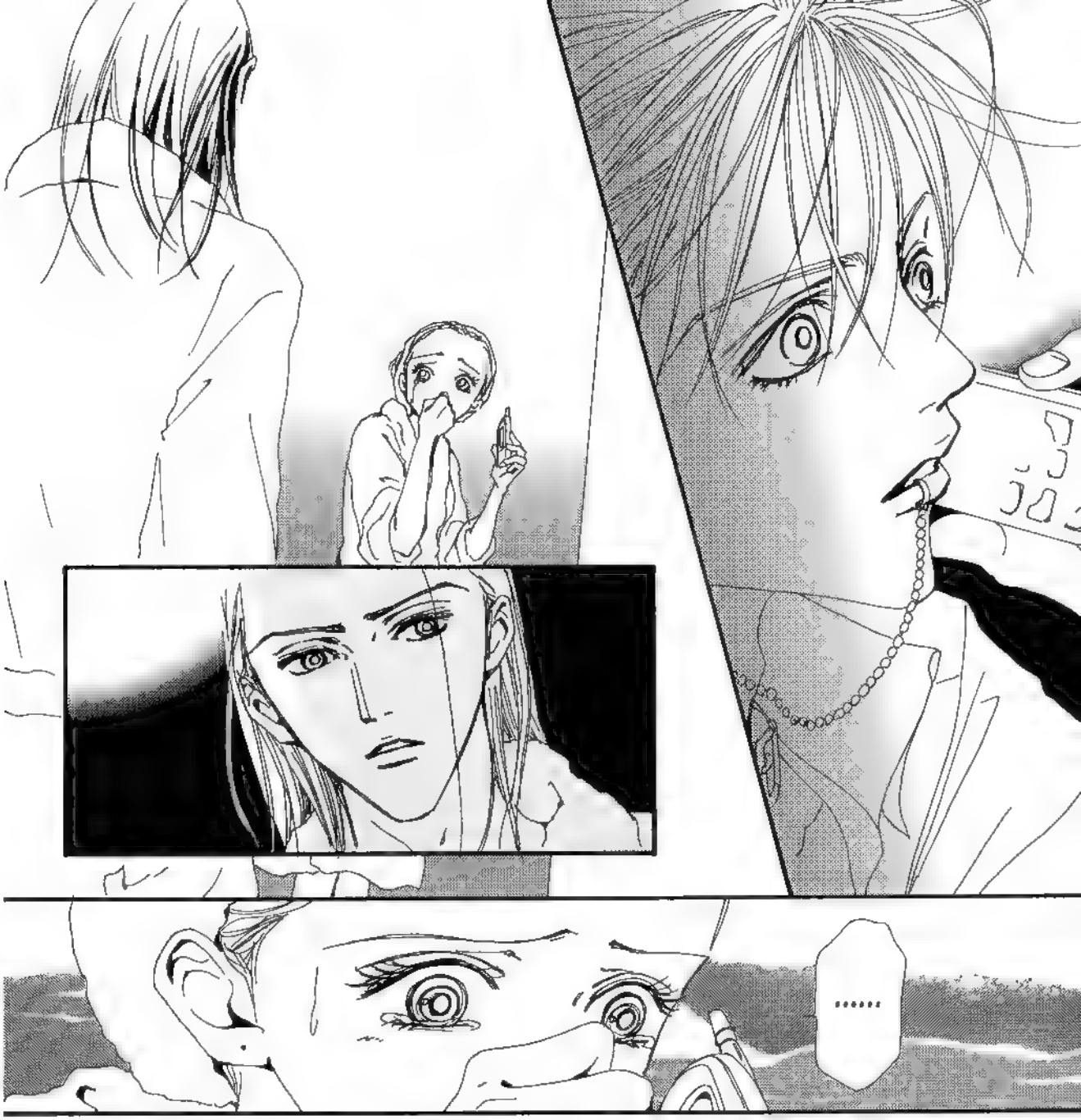
JUMP
Shin

HELLO ?
HACHI ?

YOU PROBABLY HAVE WORK IN THE MORNING...
SORRY I'M CALLING SO LATE.
HELLO ...
NO...
.....
Jump
I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU'RE DOING...
...BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE DAY WE SET OFF FIREWORKS.
NOT THAT IT'S MY BUSINESS...

THIS SUMMER WAS SO GREAT, MAKING WISHES ON STRIPS OF PAPER...
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER DONE THAT.
THE FIRE-WORKS WERE FUN.
.....
CAN YOU STILL GET THEM AT THE CORNER STORE?
LET'S DO FIRE-WORKS AGAIN SOME-TIME.

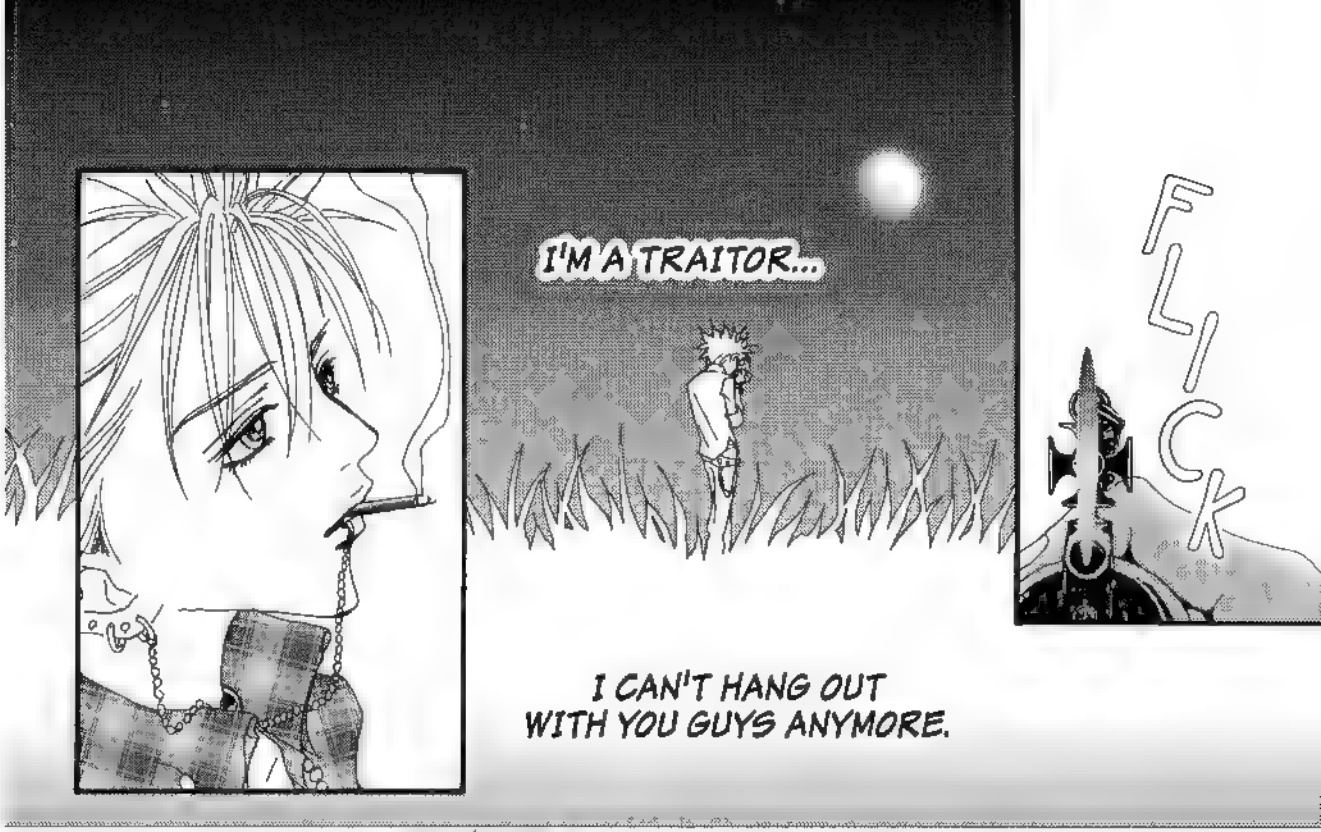
I'M A TRAITOR ...
I CAN'T HANG OUT WITH YOU GUYS ANY-MORE...
I'M SORRY, SHIN...
ABOUT WHAT ?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'M ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE.
creak
NANA...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE HAIR DRYER IS?

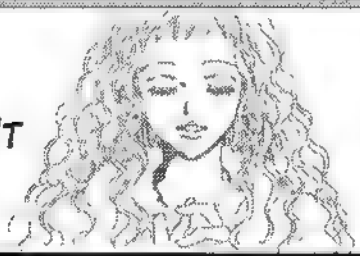

.....

beep
GOOD NIGHT !
I'M SORRY, JUN.
FOUND IT

NEVER, EVER MENTION THAT NAME AGAIN.

EVEN NOBU HAS A THING OR TWO HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT.


I'M A TRAITOR...
FLICK
I CAN'T HANG OUT WITH YOU GUYS ANYMORE.


BUT I DON'T
REALLY BELIEVE IN FATE.

I'M SORRY...

CAN YOU GIVE ME YASU'S CELL PHONE NUMBER?
REIRA WAS IN LOVE WITH TAKUMI...

LOOKING BACK, IT WAS JUST PETTY JEALOUSY.
I WASN'T THERE FOR HER WHEN SHE NEEDED ME.
BUT YASU, YOU COULD BE THERE FOR HER NOW.

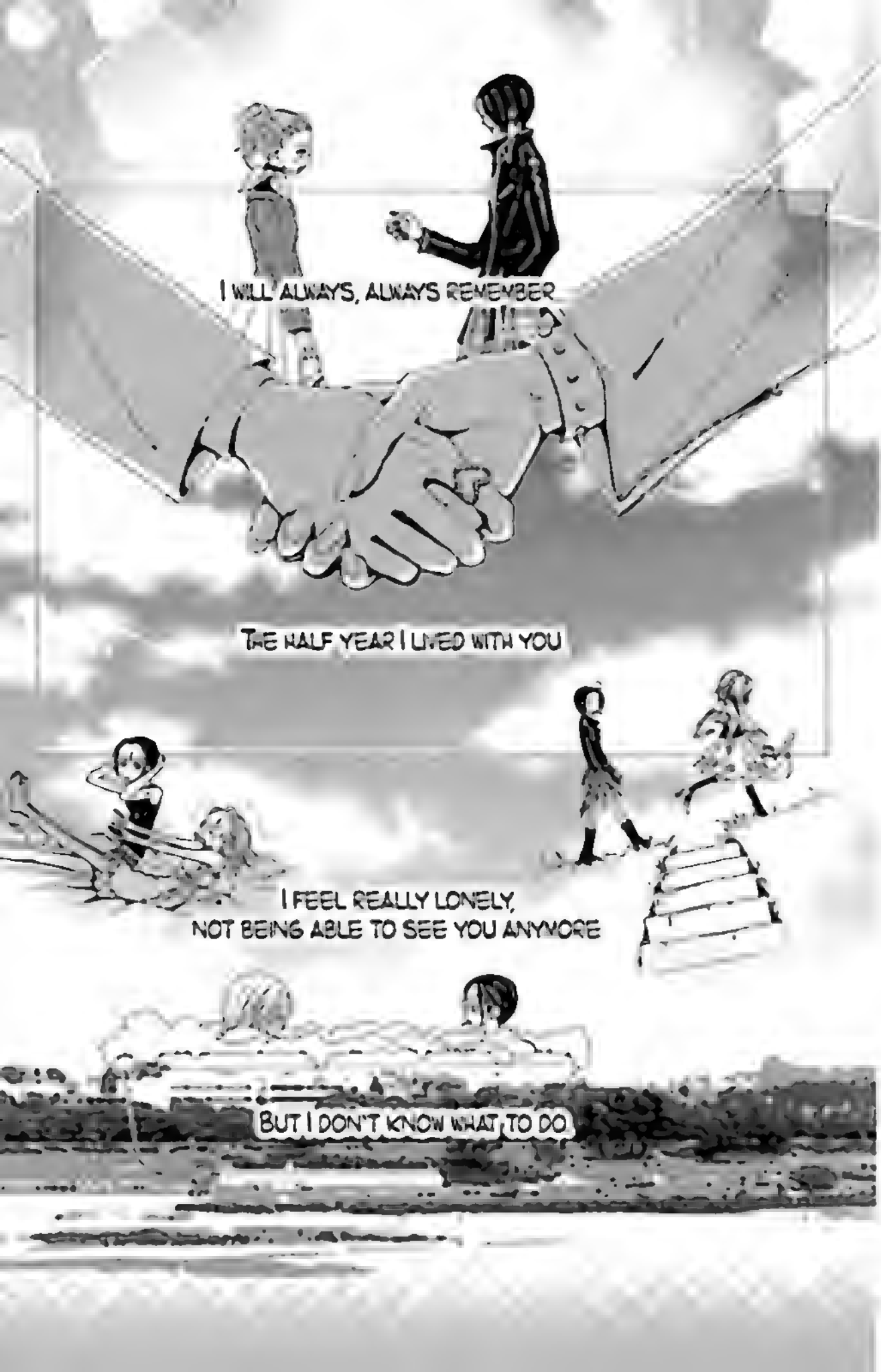
I HAVE MY HANDS FULL TAKING CARE OF YOU GUYS!
SLAM

7
REN!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
SHIN!
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BUT UNFORTUNATELY I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
LATER!
WHATEVER!
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST APOLOGIZE?
THANKS TO YOU, NANA YELLED AND CRIED, AND IT'S REALLY HARD TO DEAL WITH HER LIKE THAT.

YEAH ... I'M SORRY.
I JUST GOT REALLY WORKED UP.
I WAS BEING A BABY.
WELL...
NANA WAS BEING HARSH, TOO...
Ha Ha
I'LL APOLOGIZE TO HER WHEN I SEE HER AT PRACTICE.
WHERE'RE YOU GOING SO LATE AT NIGHT WITH AN ACOUSTIC GUITAR IN YOUR HAND?
ARE YOU SOME SORT OF NAGASHI?
THAT'S COOL.
WHAT'S A NAGASHI?*
IS IT COOL?
IT'S A LONELY HERO WHO WANDERS AROUND, LOOKING FOR LOVE.
IT'S COOL.
.....
*Nagashi are wandering musicians.
HE'S CUTE ... ♡
AND SEXY.
LIVING WITH HIM, DON'T YOU EVER WANT A PIECE OF THAT?
No way man!
HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH OF WOMEN?
NOT AT ALL.
I GOT MY WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF ME!
LATER GUYS!
LET'S PLAY MAHJONG AGAIN SOMETIME! ♡

...WHEN THEY KNOW THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO FEEL LIKE THIS AGAIN?
WHY DO PEOPLE KEEP SEEKING COM-PANION-SHIP...
FROM NANA
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
DEAR NANA,
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO SELF-CENTERED.
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL EVER FORGIVE
I WILL ALWAYS, ALWAYS
THE HALF

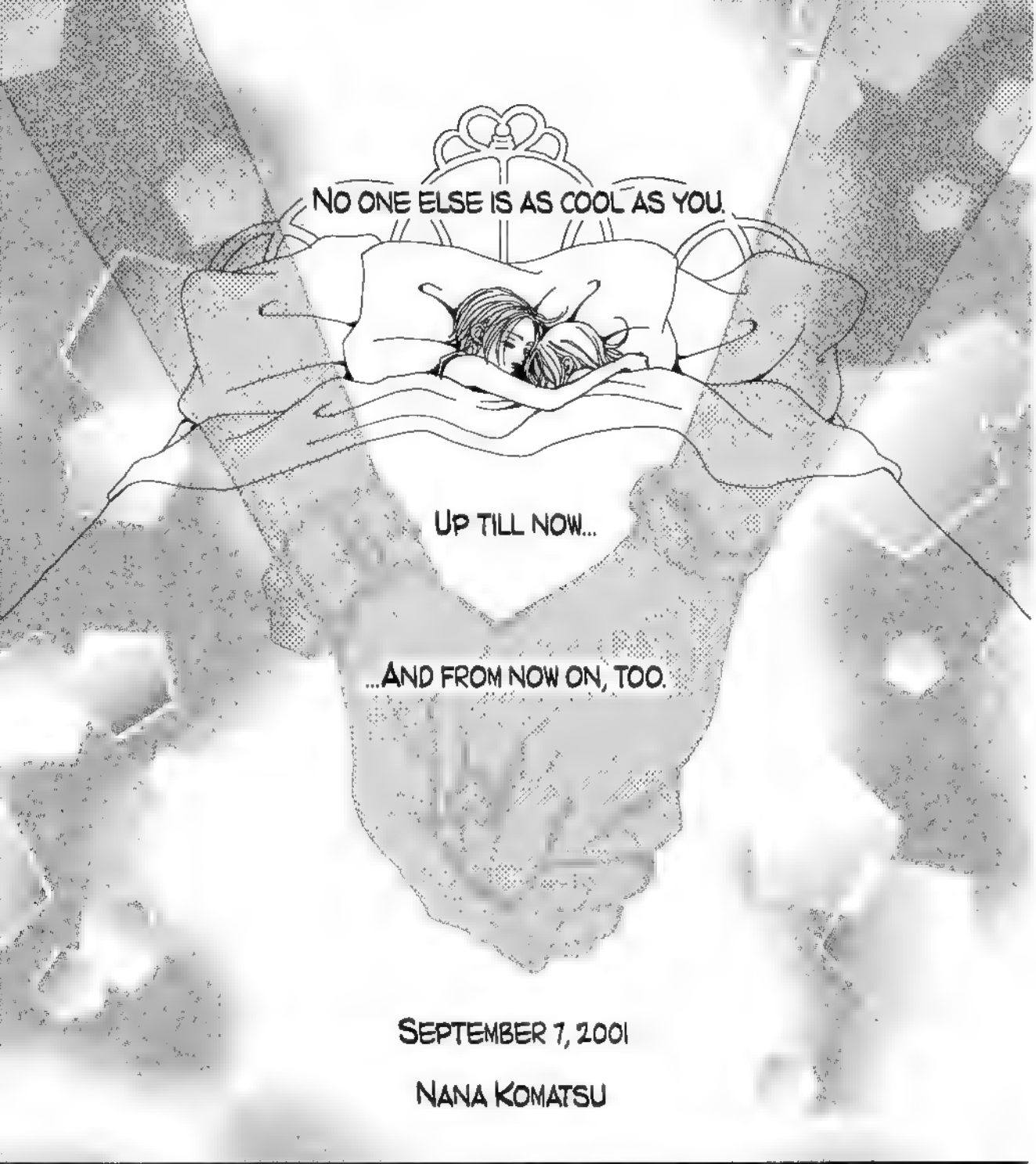
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL EVER FORGIVE ME NANA, BUT...

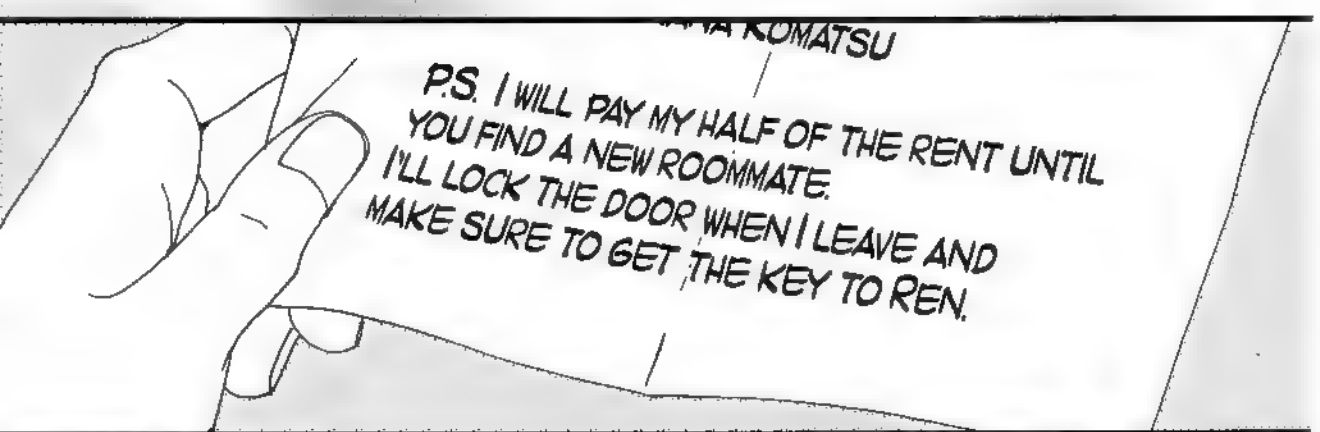

I WILL ALWAYS, ALWAYS REMEMBER
THE HALF YEAR I LIVED WITH YOU
I FEEL REALLY LONELY,
NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE YOU ANYMORE
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

SO I HOPE YOU MAKE YOUR MAJOR LABEL DEBUT SOON...
...AND APPEAR ON TV A LOT...
...SO I CAN SEE YOU SINGING.

NO MATTER WHO I'M IN LOVE WITH...

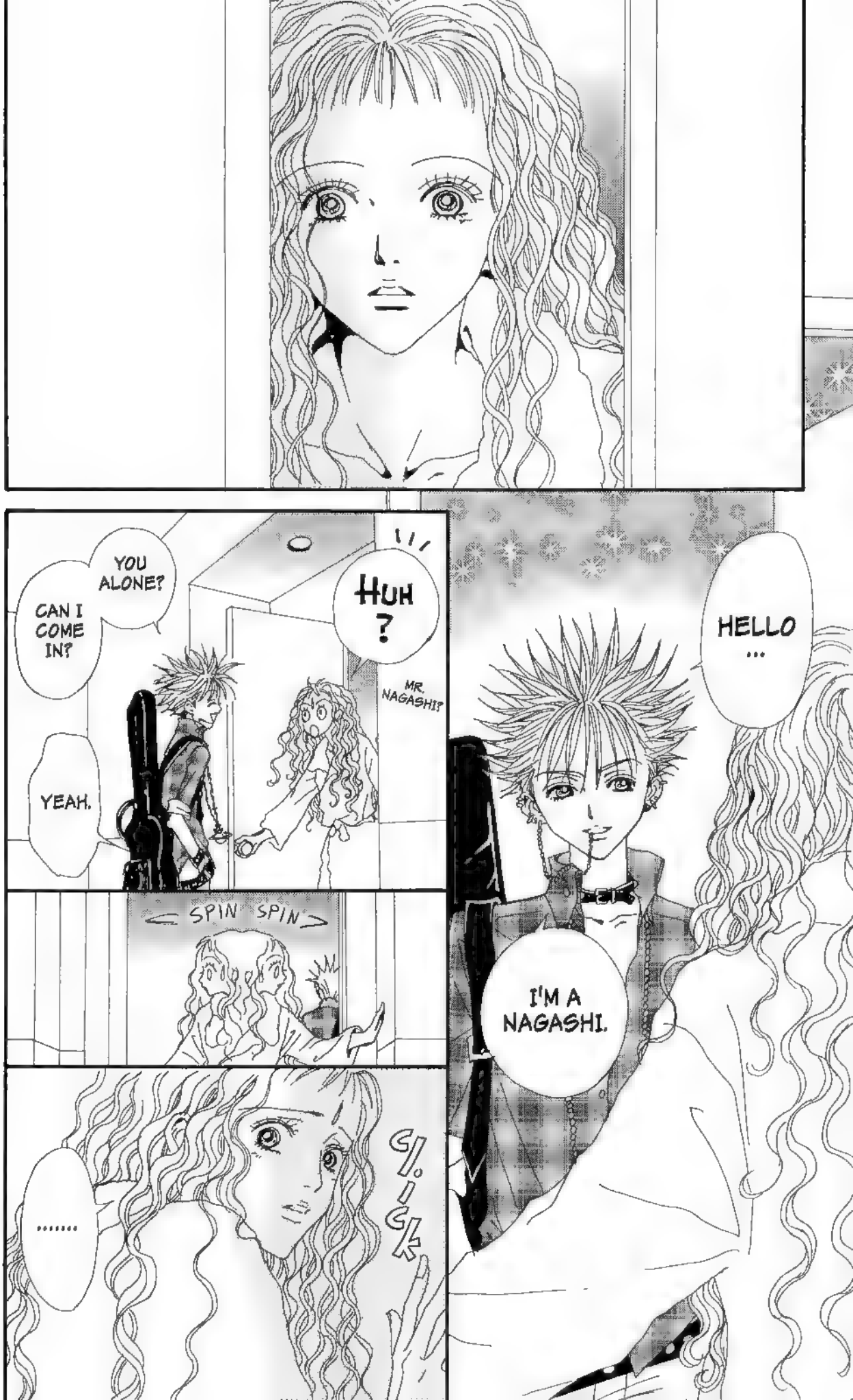
...YOU'RE MY ONLY HERO, NANA.

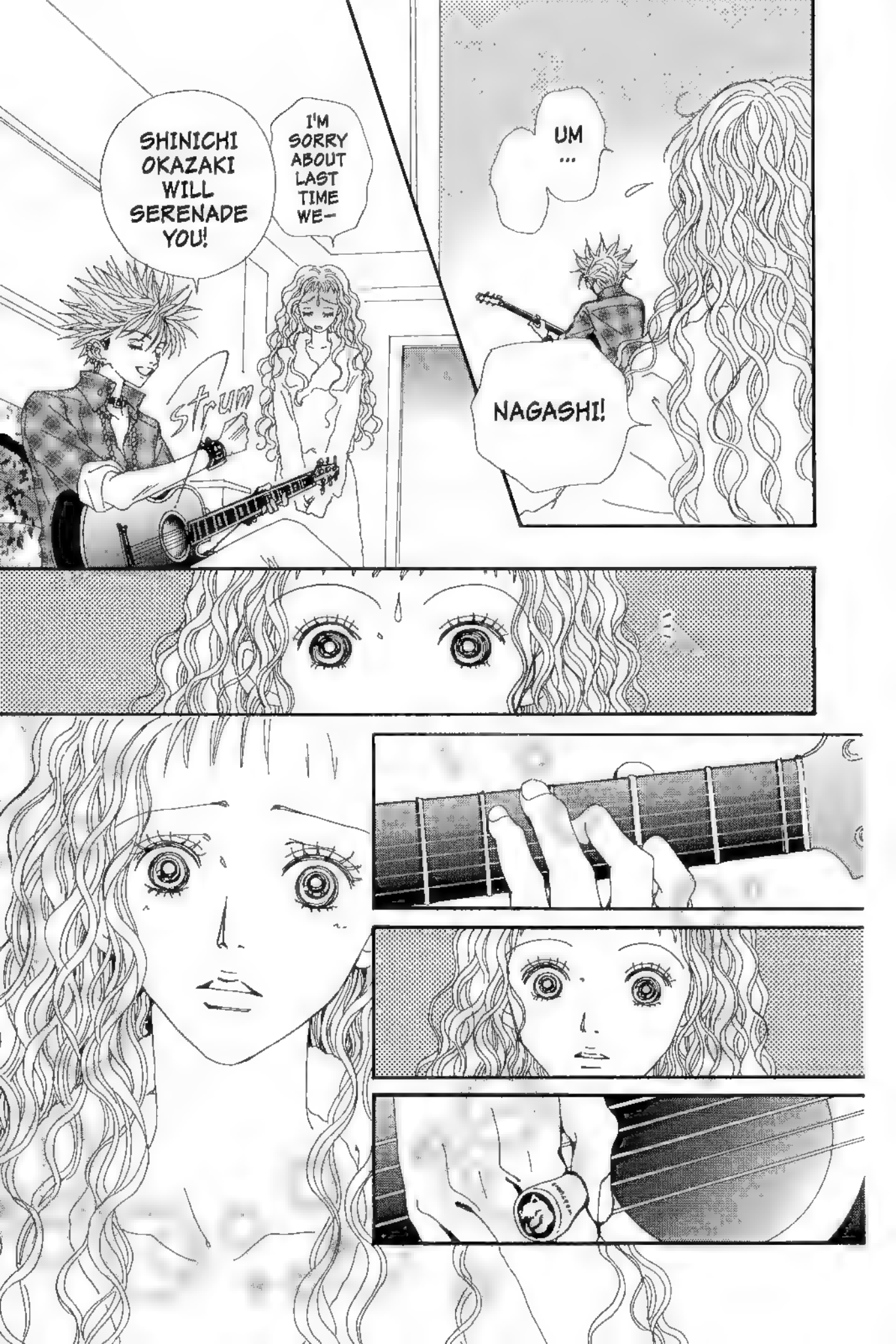

NO ONE ELSE IS AS COOL AS YOU.
UP TILL NOW...
...AND FROM NOW ON, TOO.
SEPTEMBER 7, 2001
NANA KOMATSU

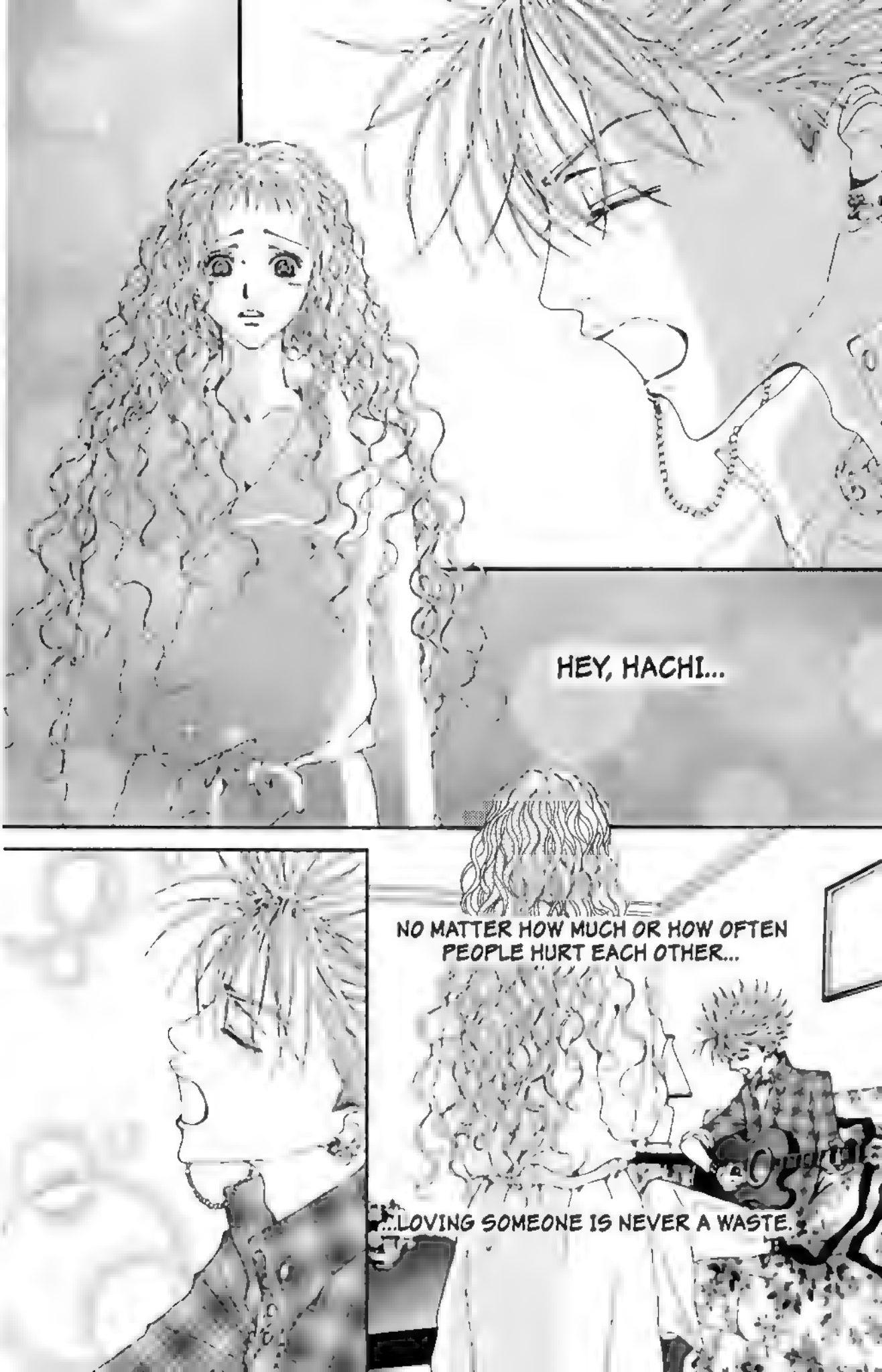

NANA KOMATSU
P.S. I WILL PAY MY HALF OF THE RENT UNTIL YOU FIND A NEW ROOMMATE.
I'LL LOCK THE DOOR WHEN I LEAVE AND MAKE SURE TO GET THE KEY TO REN.

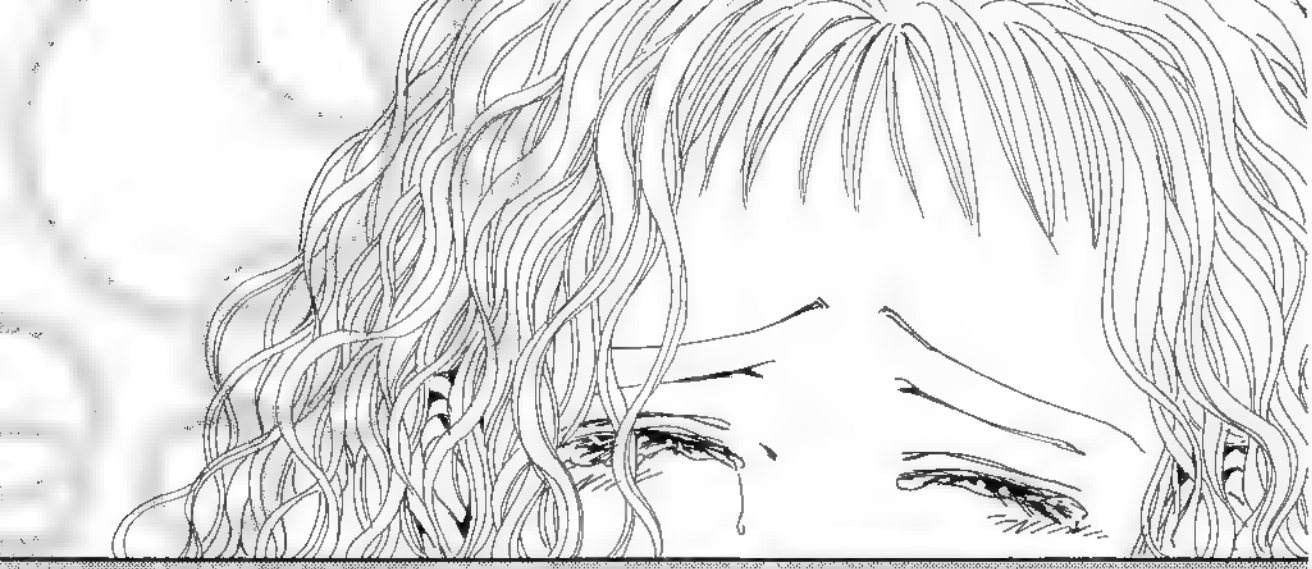
NANA?
NANA, WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET?
THIS ISN'T A KISS-OFF LETTER.
IT'S MORE LIKE A LOVE LETTER.

YOU'RE MY ONLY HERO, NANA.
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO SEEK HER OUT?!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
YOU SHOULD GO SEE HACHIKO.
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE HER JUMP FOR JOY?
I BET SHE'D BE SO CUTE.
bark ♡
bark ♡
sniff
.....
THAT'S WHAT A HERO DOES, NANA.


HELLO ...
I'M A NAGASHI.
HUH ?
MR. NAGASHI?
YOU ALONE?
CAN I COME IN?
YEAH.
SPIN SPIN
.....
CLICK


SHINICHI OKAZAKI WILL SERENADE YOU!
I'M SORRY ABOUT LAST TIME WE—
strum
UM ...
NAGASHI!


HEY, HACHI...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH OR HOW OFTEN PEOPLE HURT EACH OTHER...
...LOVING SOMEONE IS NEVER A WASTE.



I STILL CHERISH AND KEEP...
...THAT LOVE LETTER YOU LEFT FOR ME.

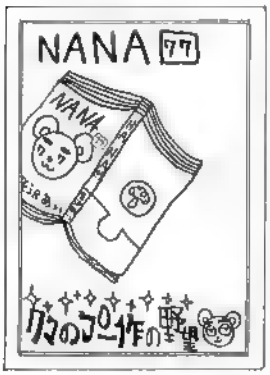
BLACK STONES

7F SNACK BAR
Junko's Place

Aichi
SATO MAHO

Yamagata
YUSEI MAMA♡

Tokyo
NISHIJIMA ERIKA



Gunma
KUMA NO PUKO♡

Nara
PUKO

Nagoya
ICHIGO

I'LL TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER?
WELCOME.
YOU CAN'T JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT HERE...
YOU DON'T EVEN GET PAID, BUT YOU HAVE TO BE HERE 'CAUSE JUNKO JUST SLACKS OFF, RIGHT?
STAFF ASK ME ANYTHING!
HAVEN'T HEARD THAT IN A WHILE.
ERIC CLAPTON'S "LAYLA"...
HEY!
WHEN DID A CUSTOMER COME IN...
I HEARD A LONG TIME AGO THAT CLAPTON WROTE THIS SONG ABOUT FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIS FRIEND'S WIFE.

.....
UM, WHAT MANGA IS SHE IN?
THERE ARE SO MANY CHARACTERS IN THE YAZAWA FAMILY, I CAN'T KEEP TRACK.
RUMI ?
WHO ?
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RUMI?
SO, SHOJI ?
YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE. TIME IS MONEY.
JUNKO'S HARD TO HANDLE.
YEAH, SHE'S CUTE! ♡
OH, "RUN-RUN"!
WHEN GOKINJO MONOGATARI BECAME AN ANIME, SHE DID THE VOICE OF THE MAIN CHARACTER. YOU KNOW, RUMI SHISHIDO.
SHE'S A REAL PERSON, WITH A TIGHT RELATION-SHIP WITH THE YAZAWA FAMILY.
NO, SHE'S NOT IN MANGA.
SHE BROKE OUT OF THE IDOL MOLD, AND NOW SHE NOT ONLY SINGS, BUT SHE'S ALSO TAKEN ON OTHER FIELDS LIKE VOICE-OVER AND THEATER.
AND SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE AN AGENT. SHE BOOKS ALL HER WORK HERSELF.
RUMI'S A LOVELY LADY.
WE'LL PLAY IT IN THE BAR.
THANKS!
COOL! ♫
CLAPTON'S FINE, BUT YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT THIS CD.
YOU CAN HAVE IT.
WOW!
AND OUR FAMILY'S DON, AI YAZAWA, DID THE ALBUM COVER.
SHE'S GOT A NEW CD OUT.

IN THIS WORLD, MANY PEOPLE THINK THAT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED FAME OR FORTUNE ARE THE WINNERS IN LIFE...
BUT THAT'S JUST THE JUDGMENT OF SOCIETY.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS FIGURING OUT HOW TO LIVE EVERY DAY SHINING, JUST BEING YOURSELF.
DON'T YOU THINK?
RUMOR HAS IT YOU GAVE UP YOUR POSITION AS A HERO AND THREW OUT YOUR CHANCES TO APPEAR IN THE MANGA, IN ORDER TO PURSUE A HUMBLE HAPPINESS WITH YOUR CURRENT GIRLFRIEND.
GOOD FOR YOU.
WELL...
HA HA HA HA
THE WIND MAY BLOW AGAINST YOU IN MANY WAYS, BUT DON'T WORRY, JUST DO YOUR BEST.
SEE YOU LATER.
SAY HI TO JUNKO FOR ME.
HUH?
WAIT A MIN-UTE!
WAIT, WHICH MANGA ARE YOU IN?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
.....
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I'M JUST PASSING THROUGH.

BEFORE WE KNEW IT, TWO NANA CDS WENT ON SALE!
WAKE UP, CAPTAIN! I GOT BIG NEWS!
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
THE FIRST ONE IS CALLED "PUNK NIGHT." THE THEME CAME FROM THE LIVE SHOW THAT TOOK PLACE IN VOLUME 4.
NO ONE WOULD BUY SOMETHING THAT SCARY!
IS IT A DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT, LIKE SOME "WANNABE BLAST" OR "WANNABE TRAPNEST"?
HUH, WHAT? VICE-CAPTAIN?
NINE CURRENT INDIE ROCK BANDS PLAYED ON IT!
Vice-Captain
RUSTLE
flap
flap
flap
who
who
who
....
Captain
crackle
crackle
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A BIG NANA FAN, YOU'LL LIKE IT.
THERE'S A SEX PISTOLS' COVER AND OTHER YOUNG PUNK STUFF. THERE'S A LOT OF INDIVIDUALITY AND NOTHING FITS NICELY INTO ANY ONE GENRE.
AND OUT OF A THOUSAND ENTRIES, THEY PICKED 13 SONGS FROM 13 BANDS TO PUT ON THE CD.
THEY INVITED THE PUBLIC TO SEND IN DEMOS OF SONGS BASED ON NANA'S IMAGE. ALL ENTRIES HAD TO HAVE A FEMALE VOCALIST.
IT'S CALLED "NANA'S SONG IS MY SONG".
THE SECOND CD IS AWESOME TOO!
BUT I WONDER IF THEY WOULD'VE LET US...
WE WERE JUST FILLER FOR A CANCELLATION.
IF WE HADN'T WANDERED OFF AND GOTTEN LOST IN HERE, WE COULD'VE BEEN ON THAT CD, TOO!
GODDAMMIT!

WELL AT ANY RATE, THEY WERE PICKED FROM A REAL TIGHT COMPETITION!
SO YOU CAN BET THE QUALITY'S HIGH.
TOTALLY!
AND IT SHOULD BE INTERESTING 'CAUSE THE CRITERIA OF BEING BASED ON NANA'S IMAGE IS OPEN FOR INTERPRETATION. WHAT ASPECTS OF THE MANGA INSPIRED BANDS AND HOW THEY EXPRESS THAT WILL VARY A LOT.♡
WHAT? OUT OF A THOUSAND SONGS?!
THAT'S INSANE!
WELL, WE'RE NOT SURE THAT NUMBER IS ACCURATE.
IT'S COMMON TO EMBELLISH IN THIS BUSINESS.
OF COURSE IT MIGHT BE TRUE, BUT STILL, IT'S SUSPECT.
psst psst psst
.....
THE MUSICAL GENRES RANGE FROM ROCK, POP, SKA, BLUES—WHATEVER!
THERE ARE LOTS OF SAD SONGS THAT'LL MAKE YOU CRY!
BUT IF WE HADN'T WANDERED OFF AND GOTTEN LOST IN HERE, WE COULD'VE PLAYED ON THAT ONE TOO!
THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME CRY!
BUT HOW CAN WE GET OUR HANDS ON THESE CDS?
EVEN IF WE HAVE TO ORDER THEM, I DON'T SEE ANY SHOPS AROUND HERE.
THEN WHERE DID YOU GET THAT PAPER?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S SUSPECT.
"THE FAMILY TIMES"?!
YOU NEVER HEARD OF IT? IT'S THE YAZAWA FAMILY NEWSLETTER.
HMPH.
I DIDN'T KNOW IT EXISTED.
IT'S NOT PUBLISHED REGULARLY, BUT IF YOU SUBSCRIBE, AS SOON AS A NEW ISSUE COMES OUT, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, YOU GET IT DELIVERED TO YOUR BEDSIDE AT MIDNIGHT.
TO YOUR BEDSIDE AT MIDNIGHT?!

An old horror manga by Tsunoda Jiro, Newspaper of Terror.

I KNOW THIS IS JUST THE BONUS PAGE, BUT HE IMPOSED HIS PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE ON ME AND UNLEASHED THIS WEIRD AURA, AND I WAS ABOUT TO GET BRAIN-WASHED!
HE HAD BLUE HAIR AND BLUE EYES AND A WEIRD SENSE OF ENTITLEMENT. I COULDN'T TELL HOW OLD HE WAS.
WEIRD ?
THERE WAS A WEIRD CUSTOMER THAT JUST CAME IN. DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HELLO! ♡
WHO IS HE?!
WAS THAT THE DEMON LORD?!

OH? PARA-KISS IS HISTORY ?
I TOLD HIM TO STAY AWAY, 'CAUSE HIS MANGA'S PUT OUT BY A DIFFERENT PUBLISHER, BUT THAT FREAK...
HIS SERIES IS FINISHED, SO HE HAS NOTHING TO DO AND JUST DROPPED BY TO MESS WITH US.

WHAT ?
DON'T LET THOSE SIXTH-FLOOR FREAKS IN MY BAR!
YOU IDIOT! THAT'S GEORGE FROM PARA-DISE KISS!
THAT'S THE GEORGE EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT?!

OOPS, I THINK I FORGOT TO CHARGE HIM...
I DID PUT UP THE ILLUSTRATIONS... BUT I GOT CAUGHT UP IN GEORGE'S AURA, SO I DIDN'T GET TO THE POST-CARDS YET.
SHIN'S WANDERING AROUND SOME-WHERE AND I CAN'T GET A-HOLD OF HIM, SO YOU'RE ALL I GOT RIGHT NOW.
DID YOU DEAL WITH THE READERS' POST-CARDS YET?
Whoa!
NOW I HAVE TO READ IT!
WHAT KIND OF MANGA IS IT?
IS IT SUPER MYSTER-IOUS?
DON'T FALL INTO HIS TRAP!
THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO!
DON'T DO IT!
YOU'RE FINALLY IN THE MOOD TO WORK?
JUNKO!
GOOD!
MY TIME IS VALU-ABLE.
Brainwashed
....
DON'T MESS WITH A YANKI!
OVER MY DEAD BODY...
DAMN YOU, GEORGE!
YOU CAN'T TAKE OVER MY PLACE!
GEORGE, YOU RULE!
WE AWAIT YOUR POSTCARDS!
Hee hee hee
Ha ha ha
Nana
c/o Shojo Beat
VIZ Media
PO Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94133
SO THIS CORNER SHOULD BE SAFE FOR A WHILE.
HUH?
PHEW.
.....
GEORGE MUST BE AN AMAZING MAN TO CONTROL JUNKO LIKE THAT.
I HAVE TO READ PARA-KISS TOO!
KYOSUKE! WE'RE OUTTA HERE!
HELP ME OUT SOME-TIMES!

WAIT A MINUTE, WHERE'D NANA AND HACHI GO?! WE'LL PROBABLY BE OPEN IN VOL. 10, TOO!

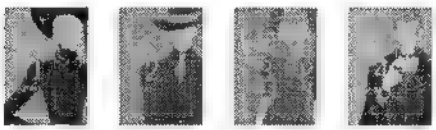
NANA Vol. 9 on Sale Now! It's too Long!

It's 1.5 times as thick as usual! It's really worth a read!
But it's hard to open! And it's expensive!
It's too thin to use as a pillow!
And the story's depressing!
I don't care about the extra story at the end!
The extra pages are stupid!
But it's 1.5 times as thick!

What the hell?!

The sequel to *Gokinjo Monogatari*

Paradise Kiss is finished!



Shodensha Five volumes ¥857 + tax each

"The ending doesn't make sense!"

Lots of complaints! Too self-absorbed!

The Family Times

Nov. 14, 2003

Cookie

On sale the 26th of every month!

NANA extras sometimes enclosed in the magazine!

http://cookie.shueisha.co.jp/

Mekke!

Various "Blast" tour swag on sale!

http://mekke.shueisha.co.jp/

RumiRoll

¥2,500 (without tax)
Label: CD RECORDS
Released by: UK Project

http://UKPROJECT.COM/

Rumi Shishido's new album on sale now! ♡

The original indie idol and our family's idol Runrun's first album in four years is finally out!

Produced by Takahiro Matsumoto (SPARKY).

Composers include the super-foxy Mitsuhiro Oikawa (Mitchy)!

Even if you have to special order it, get it!

"Have You Seen Me?"

Misato Uehara (alias?)

Nobuo Terashima

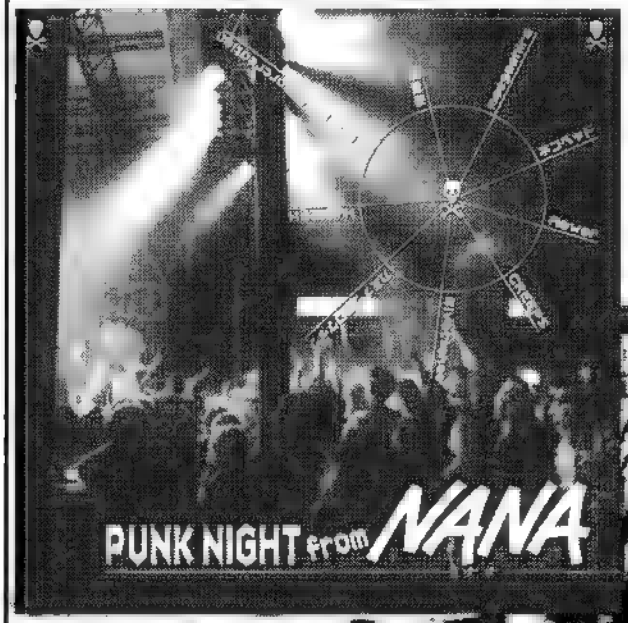
Nana Osaki

Nana Komatsu

PUNK NIGHT from NANA

9.26 *Concentration CD on Release*

Product Number KICA 1309
Price: ¥2940



The best indie bands perform at NANA concert!

- **flower**
  SEVENTEEN / ANARCHY IN THE U.K.
- **Neko Beddo**
  What is Love? / One Chance
- **Teishincho**
  honey song / funk me up
- **HANDUH**
  Tsukiyo / Yoru to Koma
- **maegashira**
  B.L./FACE
- **S.R.O.D.~sugarcreation**
  A/ love Ai / do I want?
- **CREEPS**
  Seventeen Gun / Aratanaru Ippo
- **Kaminari and Rokkettsu**
  Mada Minu Koibito / Cigarette
- **Bivattchee**
  Hanbunko / Seishun no Honoo

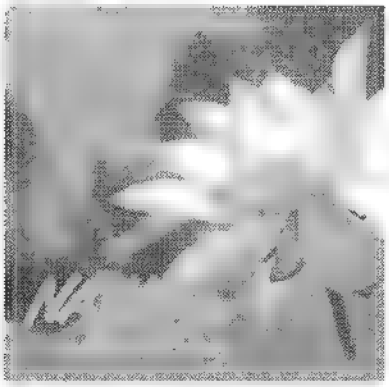
Released by: es entertainment www.es-e.co.jp Distributed by: King Records www.kingrecords.co.jp

NANA's song is my song

ナナ

On sale Nov. 6, 2003 ABCA-5027 ¥2500 (tax incl.) **Best seller!**

We invited musicians to submit interpretations of "the musical world of NANA" and chose 13 acts with female singers.



[Studio-recorded Songs]

1. Maaburu / Battle Bomb Rounge
2. Kimi no Namae / SAVAGE GENIUS
3. Rakuen no Tobira / Burukapu
4. Shin-ai / Chihiroizu
5. Lotus Blues / Olive
6. Thanks / Bama☆sister
7. Toi / Buruu Furoggu
8. Not be mine / GREEN BEAR
9. Kanaderu Kami / RK ROSEBUD
10. NO TITLE / Yamaoka Chiharu
11. Mayonaka no Asu / Kakimoto Nanae
12. MY WAY / REALIZE POWER WAVE
13. Atashi no Hana / Ann

Released by: AMJ/Momo+Grapes Distributed by: King Records
Send all inquiries to: Momo+Grapes Company Co. Ltd
101-0021 Chiyoda Bldg. 2F, 5-2-13 Sotokanda, Ch yoda-ku, Tokyo
Tel: 03-5807-5054 FAX. 03-5807-5954 http.//www.momogre.com

☆ All products listed in our newsletter actually exist!

I WAS BORN...

...LET'S JUST SAY...

...WAY UP IN THE NORTH OF JAPAN.

WE'RE ON THE SEA, BUT THE
SUMMER SWIMMING SEASON IS TOO SHORT.

THE ROAD FREEZES OVER AND
I CAN'T EVEN RIDE MY BIKE.

ACTUALLY, IT'S SO COLD THAT I DON'T
WANT TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE HEATER.

IF THINGS STAY LIKE THIS,
MY YOUTH IS GOING TO SUCK.

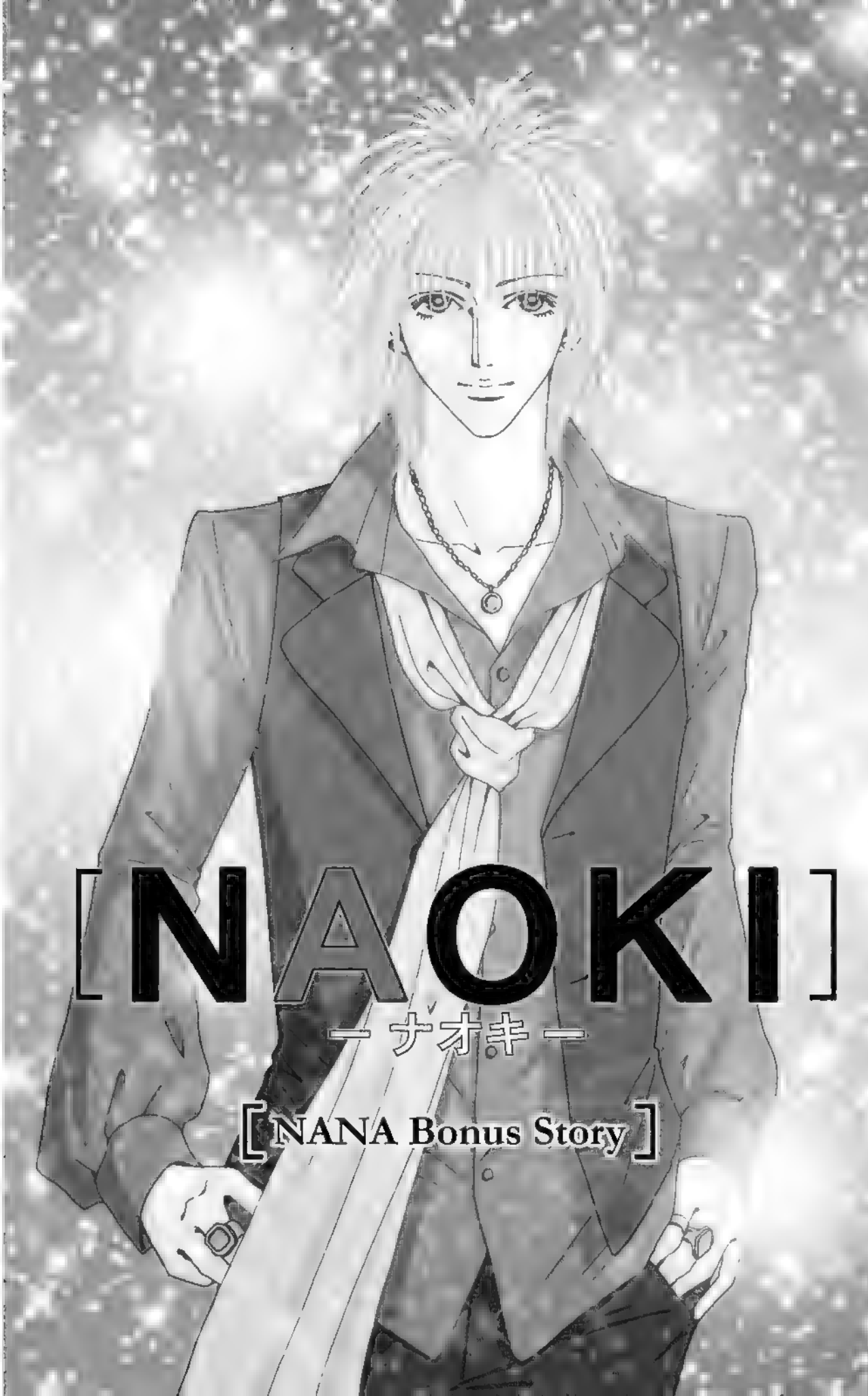
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING. I HAVE TO BE SOMETHING.

I DON'T WANT TO JUST
BE PART OF THE CROWD!

I STARTED A BAND IN EIGHTH GRADE...

...FOR JUST THAT REASON.

AT LEAST INITIALLY.♡


[NAOKI]
ーナオキー
[NANA Bonus Story]

WOW!
I DYED MY HAIR FOR THE FIRST TIME.
bling
THE SPRING OF EIGHTH GRADE ...
WHOA!
BLEACH
Hair color
Hair color
IT'S PLATINUM BLOND!
IT WORKED!
I WAS FINALLY SEEING THE REAL ME.
IT'S LIKE I WAS BORN BLOND.
WELL HELLO, HANDSOME!
Naoki!
What happened to your hair?!

I DON'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE SAY!
YOU GOT IT!
JUNIOR HIGH NO. 3
Fuji-eda!
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR HAIR?!
IT'S THE REAL ME, MAMAN.
"MAMAN!"
OH REALLY?
OH GOD— NOT BELL-BOTTOMS!
I MEAN, SOME PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY BORN BLOND!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BLOND HAIR?
I DON'T SEE WHAT'S SUCH A BIG DEAL.
BLAH BLAH BLAH
BAM
Jr. High No. 3 Baseball Club
2-1 Fujieda
NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY, I WILL LIVE BLOND!
WHAT A FREAK!
NO, YOU'RE WRONG. IT'S SCHOOL RULES.
I KNOW I'M RIGHT!
2-1 Nishi
2-1 Uchida
2-1 Fujieda

CLASS 2-4, TAKUMI ICHINOSE?!
2-1 Fujieda
BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH...
... EVERYONE OBEYED TAKUMI.
WHEN HE SNAPPED, HE WHIPPED OUT THE BAT AND GOT CRAZY.
HE WASN'T EVEN IN THE BASEBALL CLUB!
Whoosh
IS HE A GANGSTER?
2-1 Uchida
CLASS 2-1...
... FUJIEDA?
Fu

WHAT'D I DO?!
2-1 Fujieda
2-1 Uchida
2-1 Kishi
COME WITH ME.
I'LL NEVER STAND OUT EVER AGAIN!
BAM BAM BAM
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO COOL?!
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT HAIR?
I SUCK!
I'M SORRY!
THE STUDENT COUNCIL GUY SAYS IF I CAN FIND MORE THAN 30 PEOPLE WHO WANT TO JOIN, HE'LL MAKE A REQUEST TO THE SCHOOL.
I WANT TO START A POP MUSIC CLUB.
WHAT?!
YA WANNA JOIN?
A BAND...
Ahh
FUJIEDA ...
...WANNA START A BAND?
2-1 Fujieda

THAT'S IT!
IT'S MY DESTINY!
ARE YOU LISTENING?
WAIT!
No!
WHAT DO I DO?!
I'M RUINED!
BUT I DON'T PLAY AN INSTRUMENT!
I CAN'T PLAY EITHER.
YOU JUST HAVE TO PRACTICE AND LEARN.
DUH!
OH...
YOU'D LOOK GOOD IN A BAND, AND YOU'D BE REALLY COOL.
THE GIRLS WILL EAT IT UP!
REALLY ?!
EEEK
COUNT ME IN!
2-1 Fujieda
THEN SIGN THIS PETITION TO JOIN THE MUSIC CLUB!
pop
THAT WAS EASY.
BUT WHY DO YOU HAVE TO START A CLUB TO DO A BAND?
WELL, IF WE GO LEGIT WITH THE SCHOOL, WE'LL HAVE A PLACE TO PRACTICE.
WE CAN GET THE SCHOOL TO BUY OUR EQUIPMENT.
WE HAVE TO JUMP AT THIS OPPORTUNITY.
I SEE.
CRAFTY...
HE'S MORE NORMAL THAN I THOUGHT.
I USED TO THINK HE WAS TOTALLY NUTS.
Student Council

IS THE PRESIDENT IN?
OH NO ... ICHINOSE ...
YASUSHI! SOMEONE'S HERE FOR YOU!
Takagi
I GOT 30 NAMES ON THIS PETITION.
1-2 Reiko Serikawa♡ 2-5
2-4 Hiroshi WATANABE 1-6
2-3 Hideto Sato 1-8
2-2 Makoto Kiroshita 2-4
1 Mitsunori Kishi 1-2 Isao Wada
Suguru ONO 2-1 Masataka Kubo
Kunaki Kojima 1-5
OH ... ...FOR THE POP MUSIC CLUB?
HE WAS SERIOUS?
I'M DEPENDING ON YOU, TAKAGI.♡
A POP MUSIC CLUB?
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
ACADEMIC CLUBS ARE NOT A JOKE!
I KNEW HE'D SAY THAT.
PLEASE TRY TO CONSIDER IT IN THIS LIGHT...

.....
HMMM...
...IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO GIVE HIM SOMETHING HE CAN CONCENTRATE ON, TO RELEASE THAT ENERGY, RATHER THAN TRYING TO RESTRAIN HIM. THAT WAY, THE PEACE OF THE SCHOOL MIGHT BE MAINTAINED.
WITH SOMEONE LIKE ICHINOSE WHO HAS AN EXCESS OF ENERGY TO BLOW OFF...
I'LL MAKE HIM SIGN AN AGREEMENT THAT IF HE BREAKS ONE MORE WINDOW, WE'LL DISBAND THE CLUB.
WHY DON'T WE LET THEM TRY IT OUT, AND SEE HOW THINGS GO?
WELL, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!
HE WAS PERFECT IN EVERY WAY, WHICH WAS SCARY, IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN TAKUMI.
BUT WE'D NEVER TALKED TO EACH OTHER.
...AND WAS WELL RESPECTED BY BOTH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.
BACK THEN, YASU WAS THE TOP STUDENT IN SCHOOL ...
....
Notebook 2-1
Fujieda, what happened to your hair?!
....
FUJIEDA FROM CLASS L.
WEARING A FLORAL-PRINT SHIRT AGAIN.
I'M SICK OF DEALING WITH HIM.
IS HE SOME KIND OF URABAN* ?

*A gang leader who works behind the scenes or undercover.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HOME, YASUSHI.
YOUR FRIEND REN IS HERE.
I ONLY FOUND THAT OUT FROM YASU PRETTY RECENTLY.
BUT THERE WAS A REASON FOR THAT.
TAKAGI
SLAM
HEY REN.
DON'T SMOKE IN MY ROOM.
I DON'T WANT MY MOM TO WORRY.

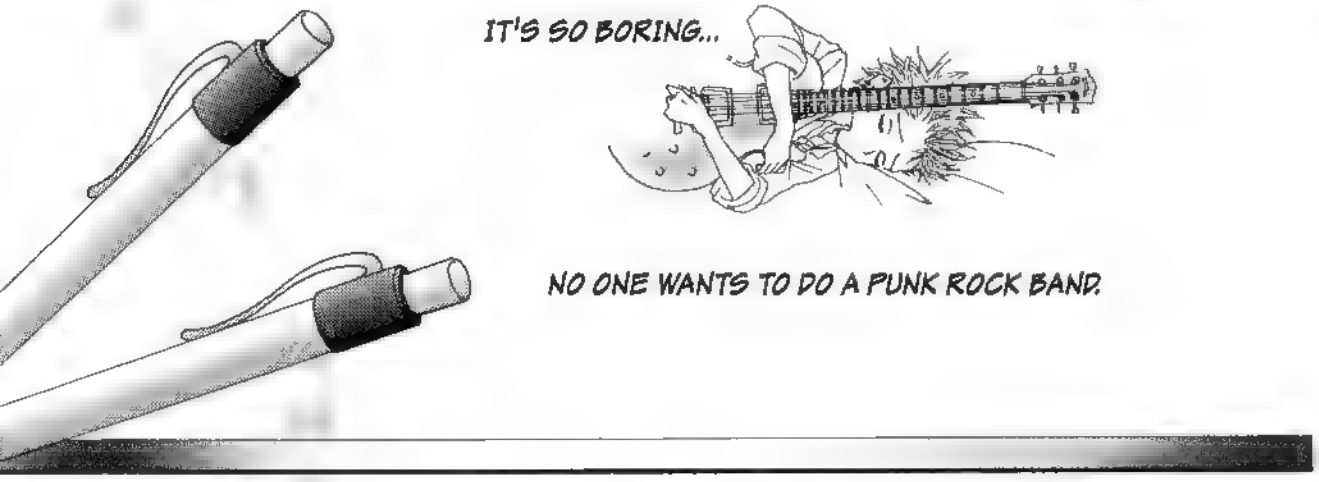
I JOINED THE POP MUSIC CLUB, LIKE YOU TOLD ME TO.
IN MY OWN WAY.
YEAH...
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO SCHOOL?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU IN A SCHOOL UNIFORM.
.....
BUT SOME SENIOR GAVE ME A SPARE GUITAR CASE, SO THAT'S COOL.
IS IT COOL?
OH...
NO ONE WANTS TO DO A PUNK ROCK BAND.
EVERY-ONE JUST PLAYS THE TOP 40.
IT'S SO BOR-ING...
SORRY, MIZUE.
I HAVE TO WORK.
REN ...
WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR DINNER?
THANKS, MAN!
I WANT TO SAVE UP TO BUY A BASS.
A GUY AT A NOODLE SHOP SAID HE'LL GIVE ME SOME CASH IF I WASH DISHES.
YOU'RE ONLY TWELVE!
Mizue
WHAT WORK?

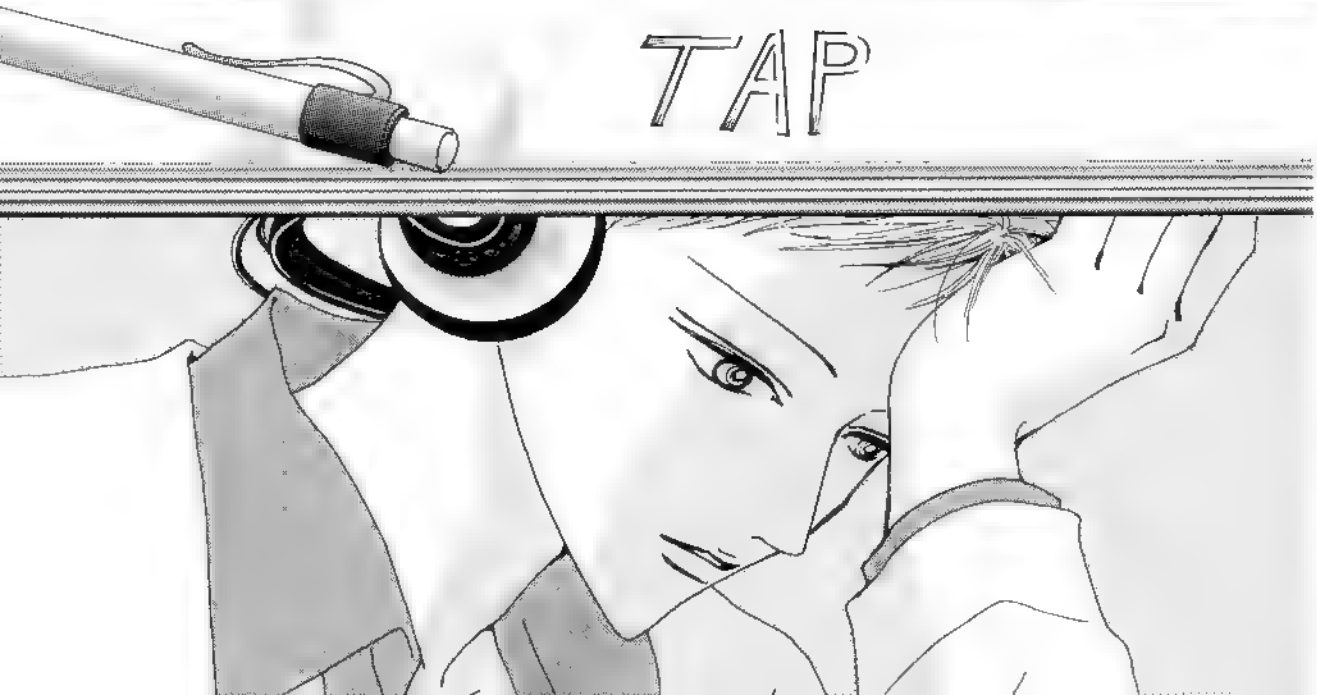
LISTEN, REN.
I KNOW I SAY THIS A LOT, BUT...
HONEY, IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT, I CAN BUY IT FOR YOU.
I APPRE-CIATE THAT...
...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO SO MUCH FOR ME.
.....
...IF YOU'D ACCEPT IT...
...WE'D LIKE TO ADOPT YOU.
DON'T YOU THINK ONE ADOPTED SON IS ENOUGH?
DON'T BE SO GREEDY, MIZUE.
YASU'S PARENTS DIED IN A CAR WRECK RIGHT AFTER HE WAS BORN.
HE GREW UP IN THE SAME ORPHAN-AGE AS REN.

YASU SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHY THE TAKAGIS CHOSE HIM.
THERE WERE A LOT OF VERY YOUNG KIDS IN THAT ORPHANAGE.
THE TAKAGI FAMILY, WHO WERE WELL-OFF BUT COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN, ADOPTED HIM.
BUT BY THE SPRING OF THIRD GRADE...
I THINK YASU WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO LIVE UP TO THAT EXPECTATION.
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN 'CAUSE YASU WAS SMART AND WELL-BEHAVED.
OH... NOTHING REALLY.
.....
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR BIRTH-DAY?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'LL BE 14!
YASUSHI, NEXT WEEK IS YOUR BIRTH-DAY.

I'M NOT HOLDING BACK.
I JUST CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING RIGHT NOW...
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
I WISH YOU'D ASK FOR SOMETHING SOMETIMES, OTHERWISE IT'S NO FUN FOR US.
YOUR MOTHER'S RIGHT.
YASUSHI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.
.....
NO FUN, HUH?
I GUESS BEING TOO MUCH OF A "GOOD BOY" CAN BE BAD.
click
MAYBE A NEW CD?
BUT THAT'S NO FUN FOR THEM.
I COULD JUST BUY THAT WITH MY ALLOWANCE.
HMMM...
NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS
Sex Pistols
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING MORE I WANT OR NEED.
THERE'S NO INCONVENIENCE OR DISSATISFACTION IN MY LIFE.
HE'LL GIVE ME SOME CASH IF I WASH DISHES.
I WANT TO SAVE UP TO BUY A BASS.

TAP
TAP
TAP
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.
OTHERWISE IT'S NO FUN FOR US.
TAP
TAP
TAP
....
GET REN A BASS INSTEAD OF GETTING ME SOME-THING...
TAP
TAP
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO SO MUCH FOR ME.


IT'S SO BORING...
NO ONE WANTS TO DO A PUNK ROCK BAND.


TAP

I THINK HE HAS MORE COMPLICATED FEELINGS TANGLED UP INSIDE.
...'CAUSE HE WANTED TO BREAK AWAY FROM HIS HONOR STUDENT IMAGE, OR MAYBE JUST 'CAUSE HE WANTED TO PLAY DRUMS.
YASU JOINED A BAND IN EIGHTH GRADE ...
EVEN NOW, I NEVER KNOW WHAT HE'S REALLY THINKING.
EVEN THOUGH HE BROKE OUT OF ONE IMAGE, HE'S STILL MR. POKER FACE IN SUN-GLASSES.

REIRA!♡
WOW!
HEY, FUJIEDA!
THE INSTRUMENTS ARRIVED IN THE CLUB ROOM. ♡
WANT TO SEE THEM?
YEAH, YEAH! ♡
YOU KNOW I DID.
thump
thump
I THINK EVERYONE HAD A CRUSH ON HER.
REIRA WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN SCHOOL.
I FOUND FUJIEDA! ♡
REIRA.

THEN I THOUGHT REIRA WAS TAKUMI'S GIRLFRIEND, SO THAT WAS THAT.
TAKUMI, YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY BASS?
YEAH. IT'S THE COOLEST, RIGHT?
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS IN HERE.
DAMN.
BLING
OOOH!
A real drum set!
WOW!
COOL!
WANT TO GIVE IT A SPIN?
Totally! ♡
shake shake
thump thump thump
WHAP
Eeek! ♡
It made a sound!
....
NO DUH.
YOU HAVE TO LET ME PLAY DRUMS!
ICHI-NOSE!

WHAT KIND OF BAND WOULD WE BE IF EVERYONE WANTED TO PLAY GUITAR?
For Beginners
YEAH, WHY NOT?
WHAT A DORK.
LIKE T.REX, ROXY MUSIC, LOU REED, AND DAVID BOWIE!
YAY!
I HAVE TO LEARN TO PLAY MY FAVORITE MUSIC QUICK!
YEAH!
T.REX
MICK RONSON
Roxy Music
IV
LOU REED - TRANSFORMER
STARDUST
BOWIE
LET'S PLAY THAT STUFF!
MY MOM HAS A LOT OF THOSE RECORDS, SO I GOT INTO THEM.
Yeah! ♡
YOU'RE INTO GLITTER.
SO YOU'RE A GLAM ROCKER ?
NOT MY THING.
GO PLAY WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
....
FINE, YOU LOVE-BIRDS!
I'M GOING TO WRITE MY OWN SONGS AND HAVE REIRA SING.
WOW, I NEVER KNEW DAVID BOWIE USED TO BE LIKE THIS!
REALLY?! GOOD! ♡
LET'S DO IT! LET'S DO IT!
HEY, I LIKE THIS SONG!

...BUT THEY DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.
I'M SURE MOST OF THE SIGNATURES CAME FROM PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T DARE REFUSE TAKUMI...
...BUT LESS THAN TEN PEOPLE ACTUALLY DID ANYTHING, AND ONLY TWO BANDS CAME OUT OF IT.
THERE WERE SUP-POSED TO BE THIRTY PEOPLE IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB...
...HE DIDN'T BREAK ANOTHER SCHOOL WINDOW UNTIL GRADU-ATION.
AS FOR HIS OTHER EVIL DEEDS ...
... LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THEM.
BUT AFTER TAKUMI TRADED HIS BAT FOR A BASS...
YOU THINK?
HE'S COOL.
BUT I'M WAY COOLER.
WHAT?
HOW?

Ah Ha Ha Ha
HE WAS LIKE A PUNK ROCK URABAN.
YASU EASILY GOT INTO THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL AND NEVER SHOWED THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF BEING IN A PUNK ROCK BAND.
Talent Show
CUZ IT'S FUN!
I WAS NEVER A VERY GOOD STUDENT, BUT I SPENT SO MUCH TIME DOING BAND STUFF THAT I STUDIED EVEN LESS.
BIG MISTAKE
What a waste of being in a band!
That won't make the girls like me!
I BARELY MANAGED TO GET INTO AN ALL-BOYS HIGH SCHOOL ...
... THAT HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING A LAST RESORT FOR STUPID GUYS.
AS IF YOU'RE NOT, TAKUMI!
YOU'RE IN A BAND SO GIRLS WILL LIKE YOU?

I TRUST YOU, TAKUMI.
OH NO! I'M SORRY.
That makes me so sad...
sniff
IT'S EASY TO LIE TO GIRLS.
I'M GETTING GOOD LESSONS.
NOT REALLY ...
YOU DON'T TRUST ME?
NO, I DON'T.
I'M SURE YOU HAVE OTHER GIRLS LINED UP.
... WHEN I HAVE YOU, YUKA?
WHY WOULD I NEED TO DO THAT ...
...
I WONDER IF HE BROKE UP WITH REIRA...
I CAN'T ASK HIM 'CAUSE HE'S ALWAYS WITH SOME GIRL.
WHAT-EVER. IT'S SUCH A PAIN.
TAKUMI, YOUR BEEPER'S GOING OFF
hee hee
...AND HE WAS WITH A DIFFER-ENT GIRL EVERY TIME I SAW HIM.
TAKUMI WAS DOING BAND STUFF AS MUCH AS I WAS, BUT HE GOT INTO A PRETTY GOOD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL...
I SHOULD'VE GONE FOR IT THEN!
I HAD NO IDEA!
REIRAAA!
I WAS IN A GLAM ROCK BAND WITH GUYS FROM JUNIOR HIGH...
AS IF!
STUDIO☆S
BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS SO LOVEY-DOVEY!
What ?!
THOSE GUYS WERE NEVER GOING OUT.
THEY'RE PRACTICALLY NEIGHBORS AND HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE THEY WERE LITTLE.
THEY'RE LIKE BROTHER AND SISTER.

ALL OF OUR LIVES WERE CHANGING, SO WE WERE GETTING TOGETHER LESS AND LESS.
THIS IS BOR-ING.
Lunch
WHEN SHOULD WE GET TOGETHER NEXT?
OH, I HAVE EXAMS.
ME TOO.
AND I HAVE WORK, TOO.
WHY BOTH-ER?!
WHY BOTH-ER?
THIS IS BOR-ING. LET'S TRY A NEW SONG.
...BUT NONE OF US COULD REALLY WRITE SONGS, SO WE WERE A COVER BAND.
...AND IT WAS FEELING PRETTY PLAYED OUT BY THEN.
IT WAS THE SAME OLD MUSIC CLUB SCENE ...
HELP ME SELL THESE TICKETS.
WE'RE DOING A CHRISTMAS CONCERT.
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU DO?
WHAT?
YOU'RE PLAYING AT A ROCK CLUB?
WOW!
IT'S JUST A HOLE-IN-THE-WALL.
BUT STILL!
THERE ARE TWELVE BANDS PLAYING.
THAT'S AWE-SOME!
IT'S NOTH-ING...
WAS HIS FAVORITE LINE BACK THEN.

...SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T YET FIT INTO MY BRAIN.
I THINK EVEN BACK THEN TAKUMI WAS STARTING TO COOK UP HIS MASTER PLAN...
BUT THAT AURA SURE DID WORK FOR HER ONSTAGE.
SHE HAD THIS UNAPPROACHABLE AURA ABOUT HER.
I SAW REIRA AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NINE MONTHS. SHE'D REALLY GROWN UP AND SEEMED QUIET AND DISTANT.
....
BUT SHE'S STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH...
GIRLS ARE SCARY.

DID TAKUMI REALLY WRITE IT?
AND THE MUSIC'S GOOD. IT'S PERFECT FOR REIRA'S VOICE.
OF COURSE, THE GUITAR'S GOOD, TOO.
KAZUYA? HE DIDN'T SHRED, SO I GAVE HIM THE BOOT.
TYRANT!
WOW.
IT'S LIKE SHE WAS BORN TO BE ONSTAGE...
AND HER VOICE IS BETTER THAN EVER.
IS SHE JAPAN-ESE?
SHE'S CUTE.
thump
thump
I'M GOING WRITE MY OWN SONGS AND HAVE REIRA SING.
IT'S NOTHING...

...TAKUMI ASKED ME TO JOIN THE BAND, AND I DROPPED EVERY-THING.
...WHEN TRAP-NEST'S DRUMMER QUIT...
THEN THE NEXT SPRING
HER NAME WAS HARUKO ♡
WE WERE THE SAME AGE ♡
warm
I HAD A GIRL-FRIEND AT THE TIME. AND IT WAS THE SPRING OF MY YOUTH.
WE JUST HELD HANDS AND STUFF LIKE THAT. ♡
GOOD FOR YOU, NAOKI.
THAT MEANS TAKUMI RESPECTS YOUR DRUMMING SKILLS.
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE, HON.
PLAY YOUR HEART OUT. ♡

HEY!
NAOKI!
REIRA ENDED UP AT THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS TAKUMI...
...AND SEEMED A LOT HAPPIER THAN BEFORE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT MUST'VE BEEN HARD FOR HER TO STUDY FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS AND DO BAND STUFF AT THE SAME TIME, TOO.
S HIGH SCHOOL ISN'T EASY TO GET INTO. WOW.
AM I THE ONLY DUMMY IN THIS BAND?
YASUUU!♡

THOSE GNARLY DUDES ARE THE GUYS FROM BRUTE!
AND THAT SKIN-HEAD DRUM-MER!
CAN'T MISS 'EM!
WHOA DUDE!
AT THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT...
RAT A TAT TAT
Mr. Skillz
HOW'D HE GET SO SMART?!
HE GOES TO F HIGH SCHOOL?
HE'S IN HIGH SCHOOL?
HE'S WEAR-ING HIS SCHOOL UNI-FORM?
HE REALLY BLEW ME AWAY!

I WANNA BE FRIENDS WITH HIM!
INTRO-DUCE ME TO THAT GUY!
.....
REALLY?!
HE WENT TO OUR JUNIOR HIGH?
I DON'T REMEM-BER A GUY LIKE THAT!
YASUSHI TAKAGI, STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT!
DUDE, YOU KNOW HIM!
HE'S FIERCE!
YOU DON'T REMEM-BER HIM?
OH WAIT, 'CAUSE HE'S BALD NOW.
IT'S TAKAGI!
YEAH, I REMEMBER YOU, FUJIEDA ...
THE BLONDIE IN THE POP MUSIC CLUB.

I'LL MAKE HIM SIGN AN AGREE-MENT...
Wink

HUH!?

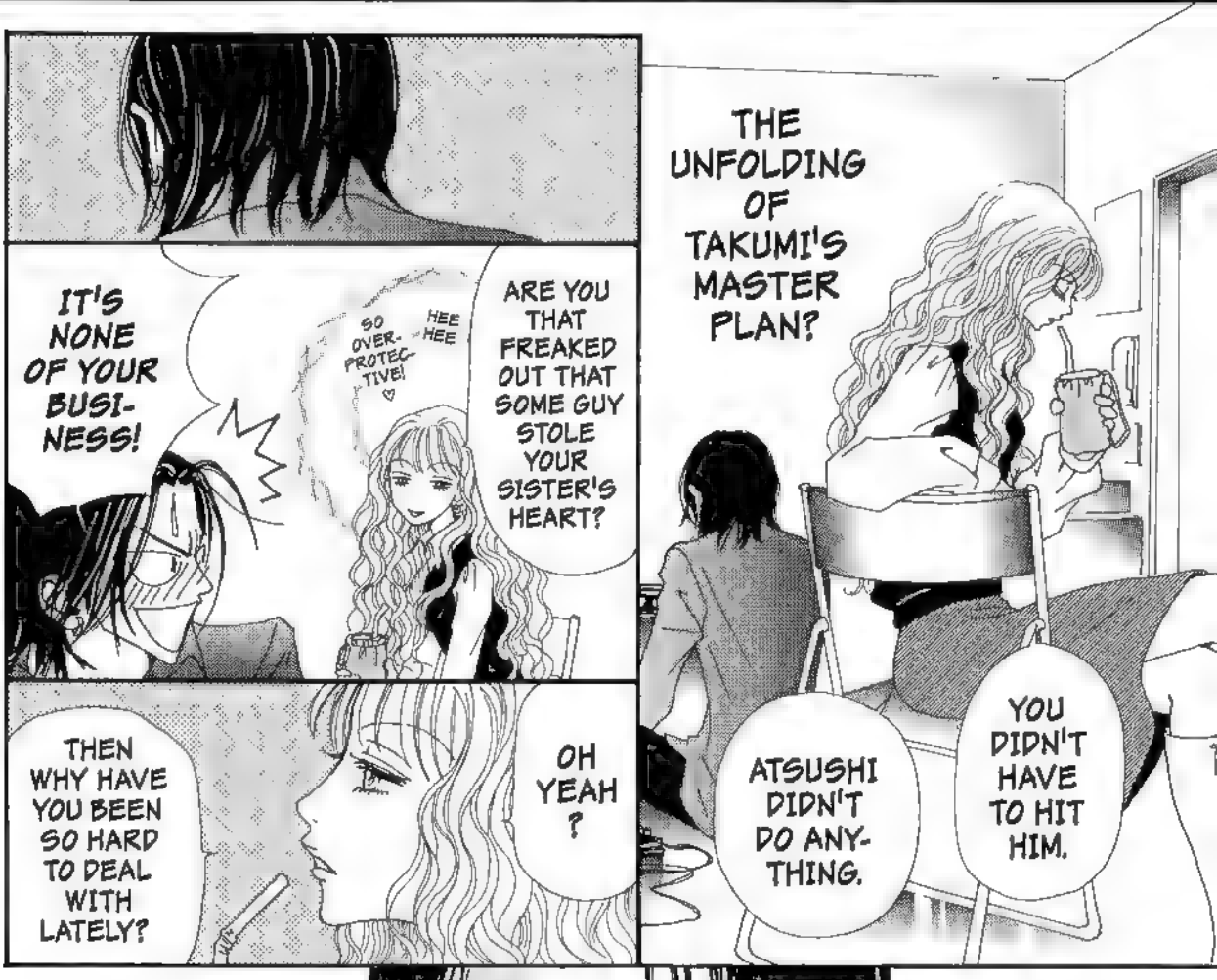
...'CAUSE HE GOT A BALD SPOT THE SIZE OF A 10-YEN COIN.
YASU TURNED INTO A SKIN-HEAD...
AAAH
YUKYUS!
He's that under-cover gang leader ?!
UNDER-COVER GANG LEADER ?
EVEN WHEN WE HAVE A SIMPLE CONVERSATION, I CAN'T TELL IF HE'S TALKING OUT HIS ASS OR NOT.
HE'S JUST LIKE TAKUMI. HE LIES LIKE A RUG.
DON'T BELIEVE A WORD REN SAYS, REIRA.
THAT'S WHAT REN SAID.
HE STUDIED TOO MUCH?
Really?!
No!
OH, REN'S THE GUITAR-IST.
THIS IS REN. HE PLAYS GUITAR. HE'S A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME.
NICE TO MEET YOU. ♡
OF COURSE I REMEMBER THAT GUY, 'CAUSE HE TOTALLY KILLED ON GUITAR.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME.

IT MAKES ME FEEL SO OUT OF PLACE.
WHY AM I SURROUNDED BY GENIUSES?
TAKUMI, REIRA, YASU, AND REN...
HARUKO...
NO, BIRDS OF A FEATHER!
IT MUST MEAN YOU'RE A GENIUS TOO!
THEY SAY THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN STUPIDITY AND GENIUS. ♡
JUST ROCK, BABY! ♡
I LOVE YOU! ♡
AND I FELT MY SKILLS INCREASE ACCORD-INGLY.
EVERY DAY, I LIVED AND BREATHED DRUMS...
I WAS AFRAID THAT IF I SLACKED OFF, TAKUMI WOULD MERCI-LESSLY GIVE ME THE AX.
FROM THEN ON, I BUSTED MY BUTT ON THE DRUMS.

AS I GOT BETTER, PLAYING DRUMS GOT MORE FUN.
BAND STUFF WAS GOING GREAT.
WE PLAYED LOTS OF SHOWS.
WE ACCUMU-LATED FANS.
BY THAT WINTER WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO START HEAD-LINING OUR OWN SHOWS...
SMACK
THE TYRANT SNAPPED.
MY WAY OR THE HIGH-WAY, DUDE!

ATSUSHI!
Don't quit now!
Please! We'll be screwed!
Well then get screwed!
I can't take it anymore!
But otherwise, things have been great! What else is wrong?
Everything!
Why do we have to do everything Takumi says?!
Our schedule, the song order, every last detail!
Our sched-ule?
The song order?
It's nothing.
.....
I envy your stupid-ity.

...WANT TO STAY TO SEE IT?
DON'T YOU...
BUT...


THE UNFOLDING OF TAKUMI'S MASTER PLAN?
ATSUSHI DIDN'T DO ANY-THING.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO HIT HIM.
ARE YOU THAT FREAKED OUT THAT SOME GUY STOLE YOUR SISTER'S HEART?
HEE HEE
SO OVER-PROTEC-TIVE!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS!
OH YEAH ?
THEN WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SO HARD TO DEAL WITH LATELY?

I'M ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
.....

NAOKI, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD.
YASU...
ATSUSHI QUIT THE BAND...
.....
REALLY...
REIRA!
YASU'S HERE! ♡
REIRA AND YASU...
...HAD BEEN GOING OUT SINCE WINTER.
ATSUSHI QUIT THE BAND?
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
I'M SURE WE'LL FIND SOMEONE EASILY.
....
I'M TAKING OFF, GUYS! ♡

HE JUST WANTS TO DO HER.
HE COMES TO PICK UP REIRA EVERY DAY.
HE LOOKS FIERCE, BUT YASU'S A NICE GUY.
.....
NOT EVERY-ONE'S LIKE YOU, TAKUMI.
I'LL PUT THE WORD OUT TO SOME PEOPLE I KNOW.
WE'RE ON BREAK 'TIL WE GET A NEW GUITARIST.
IT'S COOL.
BUT REIRA! THERE'S TEN MORE MINUTES OF PRACTICE LEFT!
SLAM
....
OH NO!
YASU'S SCARF!
OOPS!
Yeah? So what about you?
WHOOPS.

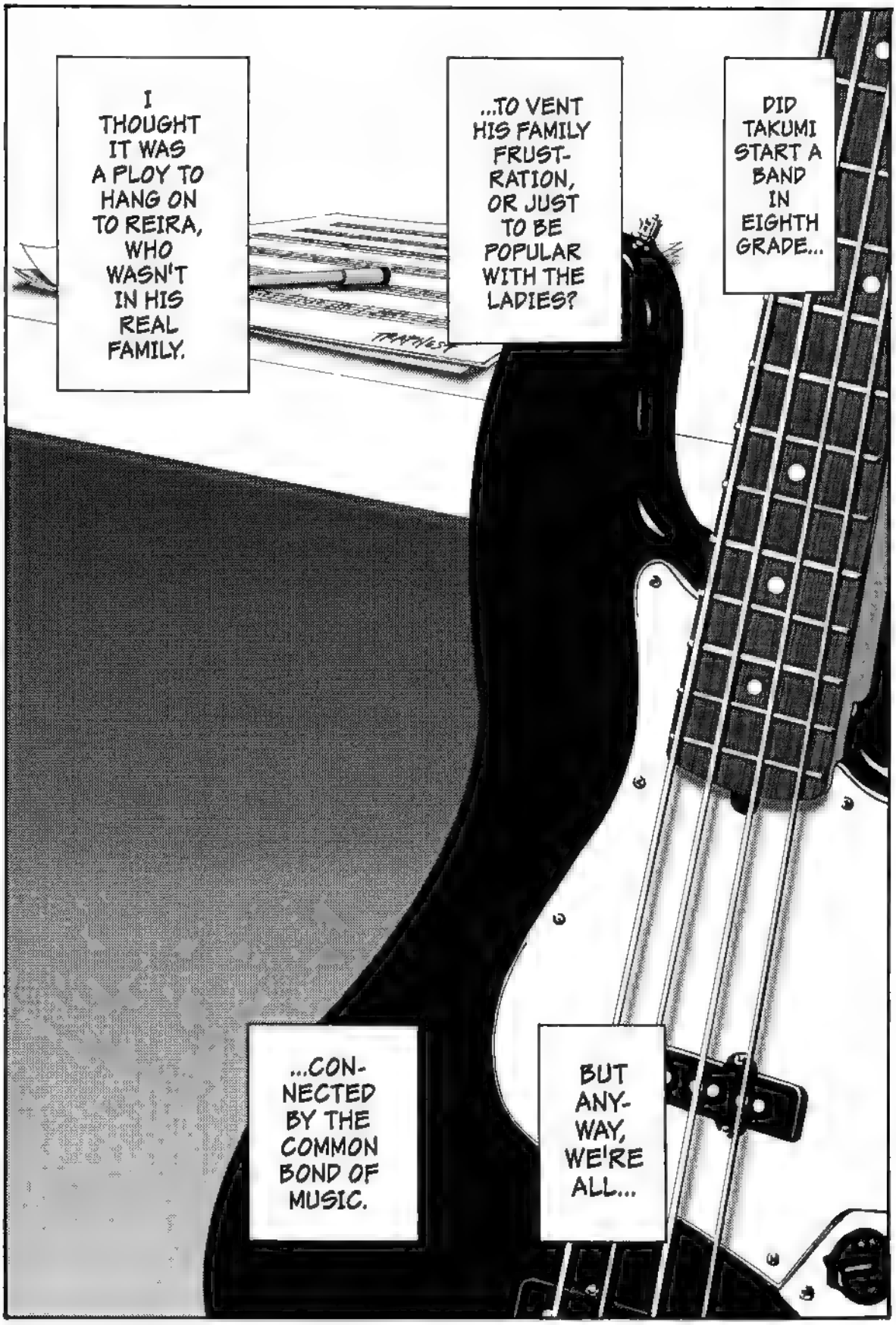
HOT-N-HEAVY!
YASU'S AN EMO GUY TOO. ♡
I GUESS...
phew
YASU FOUND US A NEW GUITAR PLAYER RIGHT OFF.
I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU...
YOU'RE A TYRANT!
Ha Ha
A TY-RANT?
HEH HEH
HE WAS OLDER THAN US, BUT HE WAS NICE AND PLAYED GOOD.
AS LONG AS I PLAY GUITAR, I'M COOL.
I'M FINE WITH THAT.
BUT HE SPLIT RIGHT BEFORE OUR MAJOR LABEL RELEASE, FOR THE SAME REASON THAT ATSUSHI QUIT.
YAY! ♡
phew

THEN THAT SUMMER, WHEN EVERY-THING WAS GOING GREAT...
...AND OUR AUDI-ENCE GREW.
AFTER THE NEW YEAR, WE STARTED HEADLINING OUR OWN SHOWS REGULARLY ...
I'M CHANGING THE CHANNEL!
TELE-PHONE. IT'S TAKAGI.
NAOKI ...
YASU ?
WHAT HAP-PENED? YOU NEVER CALL ME...♡
TAKUMI'S MOTHER DIED.
THE WAKE IS TONIGHT. CAN YOU COME?
SHE WAS SICK FOR A LONG TIME. SHE SPENT THE LAST 10 YEARS IN AND OUT OF HOSPITALS.
DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

I JUST HEARD FROM REIRA...
SHE SAID TAKUMI SEEMS CALM, 'CAUSE HE'S BEEN EXPECTING IT...
...BUT LIVING WITH THAT REALITY EVERY DAY FOR SO LONG... IT'S GOT TO BE EXCRUCIATING.
AND HIS FATHER'S AN ALCOHOLIC.
HE DRANK HIMSELF UNCON-SCIOUS... AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
HE'S AN UNRELI-ABLE MESS.
WELL, I'M SURE THAT'S WHY HE DRANK MORE THAN USUAL THIS TIME, BUT STILL ...

TAKUMI'S MAKING ALL THE ARRANGE-MENTS.
EVEN AT HIS MOTHER'S FUNERAL ...
... TAKUMI DIDN'T CRY.
HE WAS COM-PLETELY COMPOSED AND IN CONTROL ...
...AND GREETED EACH AND EVERY MOURNER.
I'VE NEVER ONCE ...
... SEEN TAKUMI CRY.

IT SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS PHYSICALLY SUPPORTING HIM.
REIRA HUDDLED CLOSE TO TAKUMI, HOLDING HIS ARM.
REIRA SAT AS ONE OF THE FAMILY, BETWEEN TAKUMI AND HIS BIG SISTER, WHO WAS EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT, AND HER HUSBAND.
I FELT A LITTLE BETTER, THINKING THAT.
...IN FRONT OF REIRA.
TAKUMI MIGHT BE ABLE TO CRY...
Ha Ha
RON!
...
DAMN!
Click
I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE TO THREATEN THAT.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CREATE A SOUND THAT BRINGS OUT THE BEAUTY IN REIRA'S VOICE.


I THOUGHT IT WAS A PLOY TO HANG ON TO REIRA, WHO WASN'T IN HIS REAL FAMILY.
...TO VENT HIS FAMILY FRUST-RATION, OR JUST TO BE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES?
DID TAKUMI START A BAND IN EIGHTH GRADE...
...CON-NECTED BY THE COMMON BOND OF MUSIC.
BUT ANY-WAY, WE'RE ALL...

OUR TOKYO INVASION!
WHEN REIRA GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL, WE'LL MOVE TO TOKYO.
I SORT OF SAW THAT COMING, BUT...
WE'RE REALLY GOING TO TOKYO.
FINE BY ME.
You can't just make that decision for all of us!
YAY!
WELL, I'M SURE HE KNEW BEFORE THAT.
SO THE NEXT SUMMER, TAKUMI DECIDED TO MOVE TO TOKYO.
WHAT?!
WELL, YOU HAVE SIX MONTHS 'TIL YOU GRADUATE, SO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!
WHAT ABOUT IT?
I DON'T CARE.
But what about me and Yasu?!
TA
DA
TOKYO
I ALREADY HAVE A TOKYO GUIDE-BOOK!

JUST DOING TIME 'TIL TAKUMI SAID THE MAGIC WORDS— "WE'RE GOING TO TOKYO."

I DIDN'T GO TO COLLEGE, I DIDN'T GET A 9-TO-5.

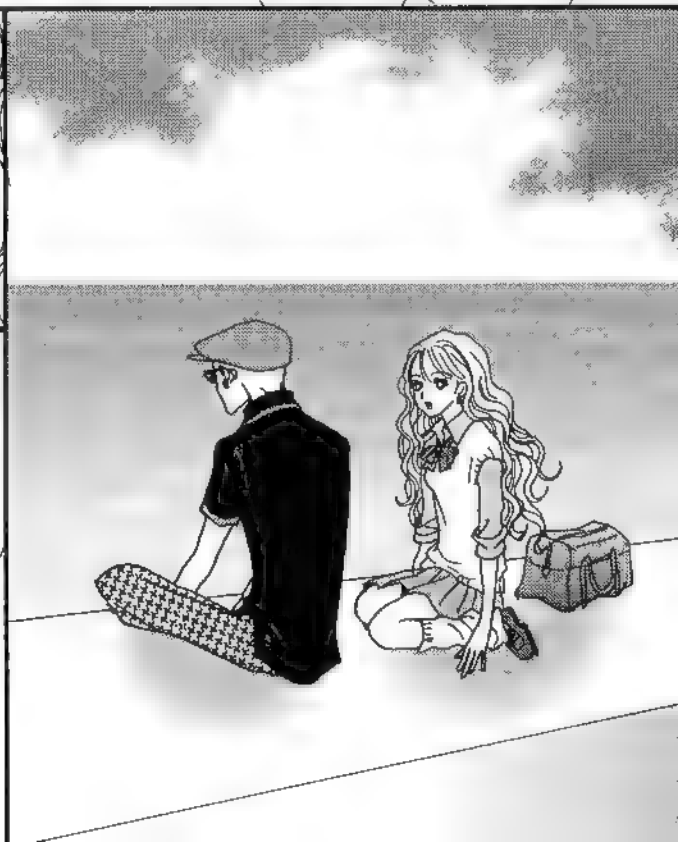
I WORKED ODD JOBS...

I BARELY GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

HARUKO...
I Love you! ♡
SPLASH
YOU ROCK.
NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS GET, AS LONG AS I'M WITH YOU, I'LL BE HAPPY.
OF COURSE I'LL GO WITH YOU, NAOKI.

SO I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
...AND I DON'T PLAN TO LEAVE THIS TOWN EITHER.
I DON'T PLAN TO MAKE A LIVING PLAYING MUSIC...

NOTHING WE CAN DO.
WHAT IF I SAID DON'T GO? YOU'RE GOING ANYWAY, RIGHT?



YOU DON'T KNOW! YOU CAN'T READ MY MIND!
EVEN IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'LL GO.
WELL, IF YOU SAY THAT, I'LL THINK ABOUT.
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT I'M FEELING?
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I REALLY ...
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

DON'T JUST TALK LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING!

FROM THEN ON...

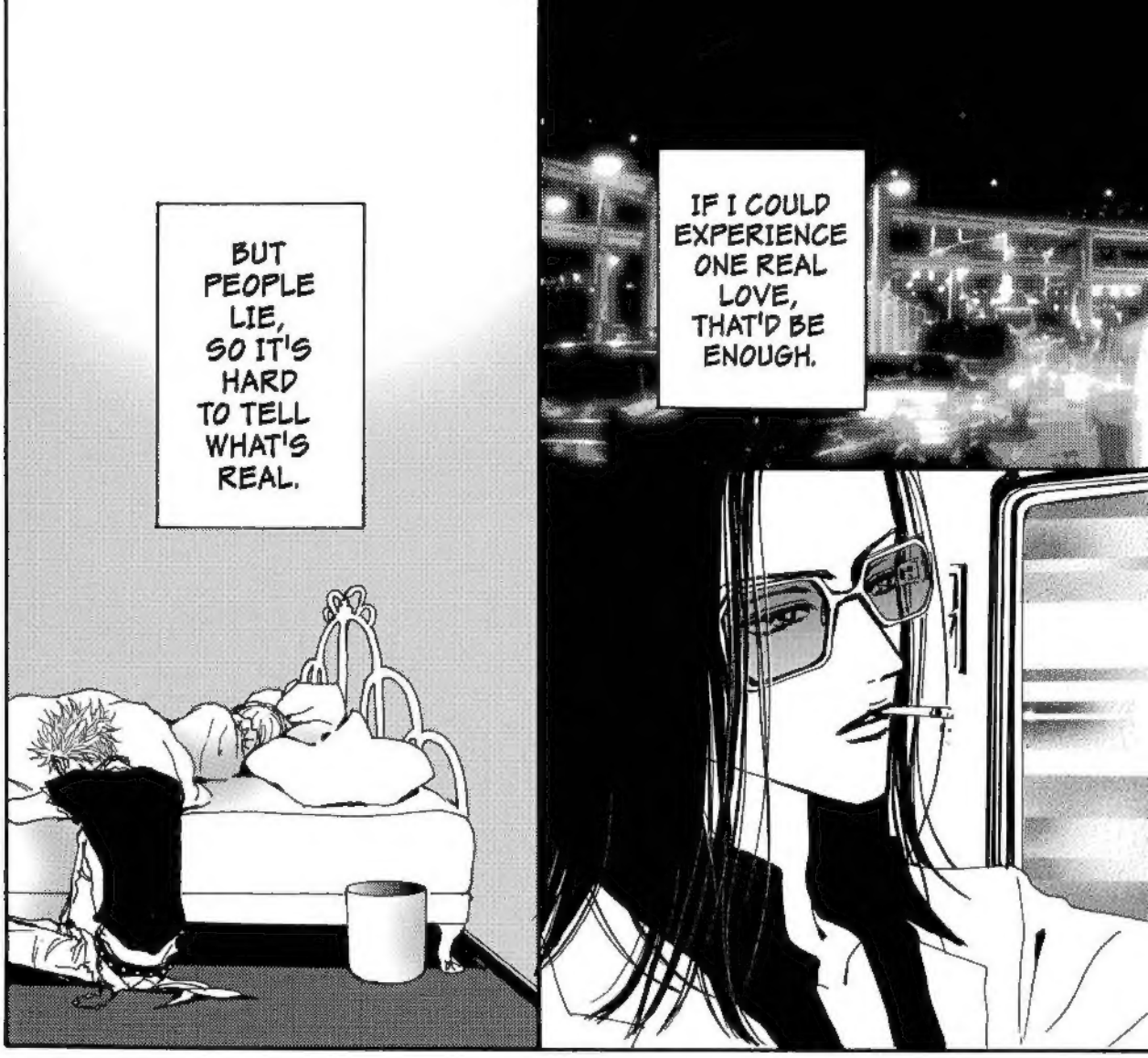
...YASU STOPPED COMING TO PICK REIRA UP AFTER PRACTICE.

...THE REAL REASON THEY BROKE UP.
I STILL HAVEN'T ASKED THEM...
TOKYO STATION
...AND WE SOLD A MILLION RECORDS IN NO TIME.
OUR FIRST MAJOR LABEL SINGLE CLIMBED TO THE TOP OF THE CHARTS ...
WE RECRUITED REN TO COMPLETE AN ALL-STAR LINE-UP.
WE PLAYED HARD AND PAID OUR DUES, THEN MADE OUR MAJOR LABEL DEBUT.
THAT SPRING, REIRA GRADU-ATED AND WE MOVED TO TOKYO.

ALTAvision
Panasonic
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE WE WENT MAJOR, AND WE'RE STILL ROCKING STRONG.
BUT WE'RE RUNNING SO FAST, I CAN'T SEE THE SCENERY AROUND ME.
SOME-TIMES IT BOTHERS ME, 'CAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.
BUT I CAN'T STOP RUNNING.
I WANT TO MAKE EVERY-ONE SEE ...
...THE REALI-ZATION OF TAKUMI'S MASTER PLAN.

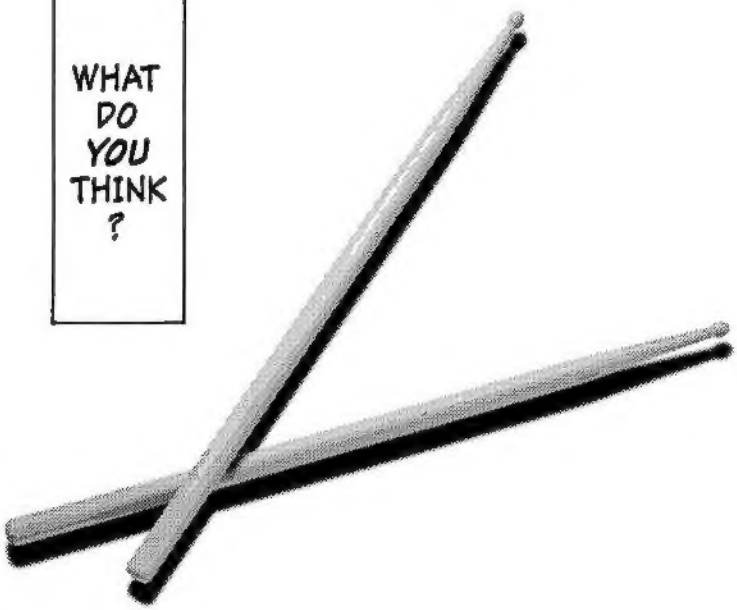
SORRY, GUYS!
WELL ACTUALLY, HARUKO NEVER REALLY EXISTED.
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH ME AND HARUKO?
NAOKIII!
AFTER I JOINED A BAND, GIRLS REALLY DID START PAYING ATTENTION TO ME.
DUMB GUYS GET LUCKY. WHAT A MONKEY.
TAKUMI, YOU'VE BEEN A BAD INFLUENCE!
THEY LURED HIM WITH FOOD!
I'LL PUT MYSELF ON TOP OF YOU! HEE HEE!
CAN YOU PUT AN EGG ON TOP?
COOL!
COME TO MY PLACE... I MADE CURRY!
AND AFTER I JOINED TRAPNEST, THE WHOLE LADY SCENE GOT PRETTY CRAZY.
SORRY, GUYS!
SO THAT'S WHY I MADE UP THAT VIRTUAL HARUKO STORY...
...AND I DID A LOT OF OTHER RIDICULOUS AND DESPICABLE THINGS I CAN'T REPEAT HERE...
AND AMATEUR BANDS NEED MONEY SOMETIMES, SO TAKUMI HAD ME GET MONEY FROM GIRLS...

NOW YOU SOLVE THE PUZZLE...
NO MATTER WHAT REALLY HAP-PENED, I'M SCARED OF THE PAPA-RAKYO!
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU.
WHICH STORY DO YOU THINK IS THE TRUTH ?
ONE OF THEM IS REAL.
THE STORY I JUST TOLD, OR THE ONE ABOUT HARUKO...
BUT AMIDST THIS LUXURY, I FEEL EMPTY.
I HAVE FAME AND FORTUNE AND CAN GET WHATEVER I WANT.
IT'S BEEN OVER 10 YEARS SINCE I STARTED PLAYING MUSIC.



EVEN IF YOU CAN'T TELL IF IT'S FALSE, IF YOU BELIEVE IN IT ENOUGH, CAN IT BE LOVE?

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK ?



One day, I realized I had to write a bonus story. I was talking to my editor about it (Let's do a story about the history of Trapnest!) when Naoki swooped down triumphantly, shouting "Then I'm the star!" The day will come when he gets his place in the sun. You really don't know what's going to happen next in this manga! ☺ –Ai Yazawa

Ai Yazawa is the creator of many popular manga titles, including *Tenshi Nanka Janai* (I'm No Angel) and *Gokinjo Monogatari* (Neighborhood Story). Another series, *Kagen no Tsuki* (Last Quarter), was made into a live-action movie and released in late 2004. American readers were introduced to Yazawa's stylish and sexy storytelling in 2002 when her title *Paradise Kiss* was translated into English.

Nana has become the all-time best-selling shojo title from Japanese publishing giant Shueisha, and the series even garnered a Shogakukan Manga Award in the girls category in 2003. A live-action *Nana* movie was released in Japan last year.

NANA
VOL. 9

Shojo Beat Edition

STORY AND ART BY AI YAZAWA

English Adaptation/Allison Wolfe
Translation/Tomo Kimura
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Sabrina Heep
Cover Design/Courtney Utt
Interior Design/Julie Behn
Editor/Pancha Diaz

VP, Production/Alvin Lu
VP, Sales & Product Marketing/Gonzalo Ferreyra
VP, Creative/Linda Espinosa
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

NANA © 1999 by Yazawa Manga Seisakusho. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 1999 by SHUEISHA Inc., Tokyo. English translation rights arranged by SHUEISHA Inc.

The rights of the author(s) of the work(s) in this publication to be so identified have been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

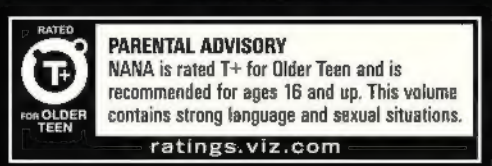
Printed in Canada

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
First printing, March 2008
Second printing, December 2009

www.viz.com

www.shojobeat.com


RATED
T+
FOR OLDER TEEN
PARENTAL ADVISORY
NANA is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains strong language and sexual situations.
ratings.viz.com